

# Stop Being Deceitful!

## Some are Self-Deceived

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.” - Ephesians 4:17-19

- Now Paul emphasizes the Stop It concept for his friends.
- Do not live like Gentiles.

Two meanings for the word Gentile: *A non-Jew or a pagan!*

## How Do Pagans Live?

- They begin with futile thinking.
- They have little understanding and lots of ignorance because of a choice to ignore the Almighty! (Hardening of their hearts)
- They have lost all sensitivity. (They don't even know what is right or wrong or they choose to live a lie.)
- They have given themselves to sensuality of every kind.
- They cannot be satisfied.

“Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man.” - Proverbs 27:20

## You Have Received the Truth — Live In It!

“You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. <sup>21</sup>Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” - Ephesians 4:20-24

1. You must not be deceived! You have the truth!
2. You must put off your “old self.” *What is this “old self”?* Note that it is “still being corrupted!”

When you became a believer, you received a new “inside” (heart, spirit) but you must live with the old “outside” (flesh).

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” - 2 Corinthians 5:17  
 “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” - Romans 7:24



“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – <sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” - 1 Corinthians 15:51,52

## 3. You must practice new thinking!

“...to be made new in the attitude of your minds...” - Ephesians 4:23  
 “For as he thinks within himself, so he is...!” - Proverbs 23:7 (NASB)  
 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” - Romans 12:2  
 “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” - Romans 8:5

- What is your mind “set on”?

## 4. You must put on a “new self” (lifestyle).

“...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” - Ephesians 4:24

- Your actions must match your thinking which should match the lifestyle of Jesus.
- *This is an effort. It doesn't “just happen” because you became a Christian!*
- But God has given you His Spirit to empower you to be successful.  
 “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” - John 14:26  
 “Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?” - 1 Corinthians 3:16

## ...So Don't Deceive Others!

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.” - Ephesians 4:25

1. Therefore... let's start “getting dressed” as is expected for someone who follows Jesus Christ.
2. Put off falsehood and put on honesty toward one another.
3. You don't want to lie “to yourself” — your own Body, the church — like pagans lie to themselves. Do you?

## I Challenge You...

1. Make an effort this week to change your thinking (if needed).
2. Make an effort to be completely honest in your conversation.

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