

We Are God's Family
Our New Life with Clarity of Purpose
Ephesians 4:17-24

What We Do with What God has Done (Eph. 4)

We Practice Relational Skills	5 healthy traits	4:2-4
We Prioritize Our Unity	7 uniting facts	4:4-6
We Appreciate God's Gifts to Each One of Us		4:7-10
We Utilize God's Equippers		4:11-12
We Embrace Our Job to Build the Body of Christ		4:12-13
We Become Family with Christ-like Members		4:13

United in Our Faith in Jesus, Knowing Jesus' Mind and Heart, Mature in Managing Life and Like Jesus as much as Possible

We "Grow Up" With Clarity of Purpose 4:14-16

Our Two Primary Life Commitments as Grown-Up Children of God:

- 1) *Guided by Truth: John 8:31-32, 43-47; 18:37*
- 2) *Commitment to Love of Our Brethren: John 13:34-35; 15:12-17*

RESULT: *The Family Grows with Every Child a Healthy Contributor*

God Expects Us to Grow Up (Eph. 4:17-24)

1. We can no longer live as a people who are mindless, do not understand and oppose the will of God. (4:17-19)

Jesus exhorts us to abandon our Old Ways (vs. 17):

- God gave us minds for the purpose of learning what is right.
- Use of our minds opens our eyes to understanding.
- God's life in us changes us and we must choose it.
- Failure to choose it displays ignorance and hardened heart.
- Without the choice, we surrender to a life of self-gratification.

2. "Truth" informs a healthy mind and understanding that guides us to be God-like in righteousness and holiness. (4:20-24)

Jesus teaches us the truth (vs. 20):

- We have heard and been taught by Jesus who knows truth.
- We are no longer misguided by our self-gratifying commitments.
- We prioritize healthy thinking.
- We know our life is guided by God's nature in us.
 1. We prioritize doing what is "right" for others.
 2. We prioritize mental, spiritual and physical care of self.

Am I Growing as a Man/Woman of God

- **There is a real difference between a person who does not know Jesus and a person who has learned from Him.**

Self-Assessment

- Has learning from Jesus changed my priorities in life?
- Has the Spirit of God in me tugged on my heart in what I do?
- What is my BEFORE "truth" and AFTER "truth" list?

- **What do I need to do to make sure "truth" as taught by Jesus is the central guide in my life?**

A Plan of Action

- # Where do I need clarity of understanding "truth" in my life?
 - Who do I need to talk to who can "speak truth" into my life?
- # Who presently challenges my commitment to righteousness?
 - What choice do I need to make that denies self to do right?
- # What is my present habit/tendency challenge to holiness?
 - What environments can I change to help me be stronger?