

***Transformation:  
Exchanging Old for New***

***PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 4:17–24***



*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.*

**Ephesians 4:17**

*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.*

*Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.*

*That, however, is not the way of life you learned*



*when you heard about Christ and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.*

*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;*

*to be made new in the attitude of your minds;*



*and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

# Bidding Farewell to the Old Life (4:17–19)



*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,*

**Ephesians 2:1**

*in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

*All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.*



**Hardness of heart leads first to darkness of mind, then to deadness of soul under the judgment of God, and finally to recklessness of life.**

**John Stott**

Having lost all sensitivity, people lose all self-control. It is exactly the sequence which Paul elaborates in the latter part of Romans 1.

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

*Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts*

**Romans 1:26a**



*Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.*

**Humans: I'll do it my way!**  
**God: OK, have it your way.**

**The pagan way of life was characterized by an insatiable desire to participate in more and more forms of immorality.**

**Peter O'Brien**

**Ephesians 4:19 could have been written this morning as a telling commentary on us. We give ourselves to trivialities and diversions. Our self-centeredness alienates us from God.**

**Klyne Snodgrass**

# Embracing Patterns of the New Life (1:20–23)





**Jesus embodies and encompasses the truth. Find Jesus and you find truth. Find truth and you find Jesus. Truth does not exist apart from Him.**

**Klyne Snodgrass**

**Union with Christ is like being placed on an NFL football team through no talent of your own. Though you didn't earn your way on to the team, now that you wear the jersey you want to play like a real football player.**

**Kevin DeYoung**



The book cover features a detailed illustration of a beaver character with a surprised expression, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and brown boots. The beaver is standing in a workshop filled with various tools and materials, including a large wooden barrel, a spool of red thread, a wooden ruler, and a hammer. A small circular inset at the top of the title block shows a beaver and a child hugging.

# You Are Special

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SERGIO MARTINEZ

MAX LUCADO



**Conversion is a renunciation of a self-centered identity in favor of a Christ-defined identity.**

**Conversion is the restructuring of a person's thinking by the Holy Spirit as the result of a direct encounter with the love of God in the person of Christ.**

**Klyne Snodgrass**



*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**Romans 12:2**

**Godliness requires exertion on the part of the Christian. Christians rest in the Gospel, but never rest in their battle against the flesh and the devil.**

**Kevin DeYoung**

When it comes to sanctification, we don't just look to the Lord. We don't just get gripped by the Gospel. We also work hard to be holy. When it comes to growth in godliness, trusting does not put an end to trying.

**Kevin DeYoung**

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**Ephesians 2:10**

*—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,*

**Philippians 2:12b**



*for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to  
fulfill His good purpose.*

**Philippians 2:13**

They may be *ethnically* Gentile, but they are to be *ethically* Jewish. Premarital sex, homosexual intercourse and idolatry were typically Gentile sins from which nearly all Jews abstained.

**Dress according to  
your divine identity.**

