

RISING ABOVE MEANS WALKING A DIFFERENT PATH.

Ephesians 4:17-24

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The road to chaos

- Futile thinking – 4:17 *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the **futility** of their minds.*

1 Peter 1:18-19a

*knowing that you were ransomed from the **futile ways** inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ,*

- Hard heartedness – 4:18 *They are **darkened** in their understanding, **alienated** from the life of God **because of the ignorance** that is in them, **due to their hardness of heart.***

- Callousness & narcissism— 4:19 ***They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity***

The road to rising above the chaos

- Learning your Leader – 4:20-21 *But that is not the way you **learned** Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,*
- Laying aside a false identity – 4:22 *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,*

Hebrews 3:13

*But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the **deceitfulness** of sin.*

- Putting on your new identity – 4:23-24 *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

“A man who changed from having *Bios* to having *Zoe* would have gone through as big a change as a statue which changed from being a carved stone to being a real man.”¹ – C. S. Lewis

¹ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: HarperCollins, 1952, 2000), 159.