

The Community of the Cross – Part VII
Eph. 4:17-24

- _____ Basis for Christian _____ (17-24)
 - Paul is calling us to appropriate _____ culture.
 - Paul contrasts the life of pagan _____ with the new life of Christian _____.
 - A desensitized heart leads to a darkening of the _____.
 - Pagan futility not only _____ its behavior, but then seeks to _____ it.
 - So, the progression goes from rationalization, to normalization, and finally to _____ of those who do not conform.
 - Those who profess Christian faith but don't practice Christian faith are _____ but not _____.
 - We must take _____ the comfortable clothes of the old life and put on the _____ clothes of the new life.
- _____ Guidance for Renewed _____ (25-32)
 - Paul focuses on _____ within the church.
 - 4 Examples:
 - 1) Fellowship can never be built on _____.
 - 2) Control our anger.
 - Don't let it lead us to _____.
 - Don't let it _____.
 - Don't give the devil an _____.
 - 3) Don't illegally re-_____ other people's property, but personally _____ with your own honest labor.
 - 4) Don't make a _____ tank out of your _____.
 - Summary:
 - Verse 31: _____ to put away sinful _____.
 - Verse 32: _____ pursue kingdom _____.

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- Doctrinal Basis for Christian Purity (17-24)
 - Paul is calling us to appropriate kingdom culture.
 - Paul contrasts the life of pagan futility with the new life of Christian purity.
 - A desensitized heart leads to a darkening of the intellect.
 - Pagan futility not only rationalizes its behavior, but then seeks to normalize it.
 - So the progression goes from rationalization, to normalization, and finally to marginalization of those who do not conform.
 - Those who profess Christian faith but don't practice Christian faith are professors but not possessors.
 - We must take off the comfortable clothes of the old life and put on the new clothes of the new life.
- Practical Guidance for Renewed Community (25-32)
 - Paul focuses on relationships within the church.
 - 4 Examples:
 - 1) Fellowship can never be built on falsehood.
 - 2) Control our anger.
 - Don't let it lead us to sin.
 - Don't let it linger.
 - Don't give the devil an opportunity.
 - 3) Don't illegally re-distribute other people's property, but personally contribute with your own honest labor.
 - 4) Don't make a septic tank out of your speech.
 - Summary:
 - Verse 31: Diligently to put away sinful vice.
 - Verse 32: Deliberately pursue kingdom virtue.