

Ephesians 4:17-32
Women in the Word
11/29/2017

Understanding the Context

1. In the context of the Bible – Seven Silly Eaters

2. In the context of the book:

Chpts 1-3 What God has done for you in Christ

Chpts 4-6 How then shall we live?

What has God done for you in Christ?

1:3 He blessed you with every spiritual blessing in heaven

1:4 He chose you before he made the world to be holy and blameless before him

1:5 He predestined you for adoption

1:7 He redeemed you and forgave you

1:11 He gave you an inheritance.

1:13 He sealed you with the Holy Spirit

1:19 His great power is at work for you

2:4 He loves you with a great love

2:5-6 He raised you to life and seated you in heaven when you were dead in your sin

2:8 He saved you by grace alone through faith

2:10 He created you for good works that He has prepared beforehand, **that you should walk in them.**

3:6 He made Gentiles fellow heirs with Jews because of the work of Jesus

3:20 He is able to do far more for you than we could ask or even think

“..therefore...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...” (4:1)

3. In the context of our passage - How then shall we live (walk)?

4:17-19 Not like this (*futility - devoid of truth*)

4:20-24 But because of this (*Gospel*)

4:25-31 You should walk/live like this (*in truth*)

Of interest (and perhaps a bit of controversy).

- **vv. 17-24** are one verse in Greek. Which illustrates how hard it is to translate this passage.
- **vv.22-24** The main verbs in each verse (put off, be renewed, put on) are infinitives in indirect discourse. They can be translated as either indicative (stating a fact) or imperative (a command). Context determines how to translate them. Most (all?) translations take them to be commands. But Dr. Baugh argues that they should be taken as indicatives because of the word “therefore” in v. 25. It makes no sense to say “do this therefore do this.” Rather we would say “Because this is true, do this.” If he is correct, we would translate the verbs: “you have put off”; “You are being renewed”; “you have put on”

Don't let the details distract you from the big picture: (*see v. 28 as an example*)

Without Christ we live selfishly – like a black hole

In Christ we are called to live selflessly – like a shining star (Phil 2:15)