

# **The Imperative of Holiness**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 4:17-5:4.

B. God through Paul commands us to put off our old selves and live in new holiness apart from our society. (Romans 1; Hebrews 1:9)

## II. We are called to put on the characteristics of the new self. (Colossians 3:12-14)

A. We are to live by God's standard of integrity. (Ephesians 4: 25, 28)

1. Put off falsehood and put on truth. (Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:25)

2. We must stop stealing and work with our own hands so that we can share with the needy. (Ephesians 4:28)

B. We are to live by God's standard of relationships. (Ephesians 4:26, 27, 5:2)

1. Put off unwholesome talk- that means gossiping, crude jokes, profanity- and speak things that will build other people up. (Ephesians 4:29)

2. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by how you handle your interpersonal relationships. Instead, practice compassion and forgiveness in your relationships. (Ephesians 4:30; Genesis 6:5-6; Ephesians 4:32)

3. Live a life of love and service to other people.

C. We are called to live by God's standard of moral purity. (Ephesians 5:3-4)

1. Put off any hint of sexual impurity in thought, speech, and body.

**Application questions:**

1. Where does this transformation from the “old self” to the “new self” begin- in our inner worlds or our outer behavior?

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2. Why do you think Paul calls the Ephesian Christians not only to stop doing sinful things, but also start doing holy things? What is the goal of holiness?

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3. Is more difficult for you to stop doing sinful things or to form habits of doing good things? Why do you think that is?

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