

4:17-19¹

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk They are, in other words, to conduct themselves differently than according to what they used to be (2:2). This new **mindset** that God gives us through His grace (1:20) enables us to speak well with others (4:25-4:32 with an emphasis on 4:29).

as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, Here is probably, then, the major way the church is “equipped” (4:12): they are changing the way they conduct their lives based on changing the way they think (a la Romans 12:2). **18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;** [which no longer feels]. We learn, then, that an ignorant “mind” comes from an unfeeling **heart 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

4:20-24

20 But you have not so learned Christ, or learned [with your mind]. **21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and** ^a**be renewed in the spirit** so we not only have the “heart” of verse 18 and the **mind**, but we here have the **spirit**.

of your mind, This ought not be overcomplicated. The Scientologists argue for an analytical **mind** that makes decisions² and the reactive mind that stores protective measures or impulses that protect the person almost subconsciously. These folks make up all kinds of stuff like things you need to have cleared from your reactive **mind** so that your analytical **mind** can function clearly called “engrams.”³ Oddly enough, these things are there from our pre-existences and mankind needs to “go clear.”⁴ This religion is both attractive because it scientifically explains interplanetary existence before coming to earth⁵ and because it removes current accountability from the person’s muddled thoughts. **24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**

4:25-32

Therefore, putting away lying, So how do we have a renewed mind (verse 23) that thinks as a “new man” (verse 24)? Three things:

1. Stop **lying**. Focus on telling the truth. Put yourself in situations where you don’t mind being honest. **Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.** You're not allowed to be a liar and be a functioning part of a body. That's pretty clear in the context, **speak every man truth with his neighbor**

¹See notes under 1:2 & 1:7-12.

^aRom. 12:2

²Ravi Zacharias *Kingdom of the Cults*, 356.

³Zacharias *Kingdom of the Cults*, 356; page 358 explains how certified church counselors and instruments developed by this “church” are needed for this to occur.

⁴Zacharias, 358; on this page are a few of the very few who have gone “clear.” Some of these “clear” in this book are proven frauds.

⁵A lot like Mormonism and Nation of Islam.

because **we are members one of another**. So there is a wonderful thing called voluntary accountability. It's not co-dependence; it's inter-dependence. Inter-dependence means I'm choosing to need you, that I'm choosing to subordinate myself to the needing of you. Now, I know we're all complete in Christ and that's where we get these tv watching church-goers because, "I don't need the body. I have Jesus." The New Testament says that we need the body to be built up and the gifts given to the body.

2. Stop reacting. We are, then, as mere members of the Gentiles, quick-tempered liars. Focus on deliberate, Spirit-driven actions. **26^e "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath**, This is explained well when you know from where Paul took it. He takes it from Psalm 4:4-5⁶ and we have quite obviously the injunction against **angry** acts rather than anger itself. Now how is "letting the sun go down while you're angry" a reaction? Because it is the other ditch from an **angry** person. **27^f nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something^h to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary⁸ edification, that it may impart grace** something which is available through the well-chosen words of our fellow believers and was wished upon us from Paul (1:2).

to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, why not? Because if you do, it is hard to be renewed (verse 23). **by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, ⁹clamor, and ⁿevil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

Warning:

Welfare:

Worship:

Church History

Song

^ePs. 4:4

⁶See these verses dealt with more in depth in my commentary on the Psalms.

^fJames 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9

^h1 Thess. 4:12

⁸ building up

⁹loud quarreling

ⁿJames 4:11