

## Introduction: "A Tale of Two Butterflies"

A New Life Always Demands a New Lifestyle

2 Corinthians 5:17

### WARNING: Two Common Errors to Avoid

1. Moralism
2. Antinomianism

## A Believer Whose Life Does Not Change = An Oxymoron:

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup>So I tell you this and insist on it in the Lord,  
**that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do,  
in the futility of their thinking.**



<sup>18a</sup>They are darkened in their understanding  
and separated from the life of God



<sup>18b</sup>because of the ignorance that is in them  
due to the hardening of their hearts.



<sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity,  
they have given themselves over to sensuality,  
so as to indulge in every kind of impurity,  
with a continual lust for more.

<sup>20</sup> **You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.**



<sup>21</sup> Surely you heard of him  
and were taught in him,  
in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.



<sup>22</sup> You were taught with regard to your former way of  
life,

- to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
- <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds;
- <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

1. As believers, our lives must be progressively characterized by **moral purity**.

Ephesians 4:17-19

2. An **immoral lifestyle** is inconceivable for us as believers for two reasons:

a) It contradicts \_\_\_\_\_ we are! Ephesians 4:20

b) It contradicts \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is! Ephesians 4:21

3. We achieve **personal purity** by following God's three-fold principles of transformation.

Ephesians 4:22-24

- a) "Put-off" (point in time) **the old!**
- b) Be renewed (continuously) in the spirit of your mind!
- c) "Put-on" (point in time) **the new!**

### Application/Discussion Questions:

1. How would you summarize the main point outlined in Ephesians 4:17-24?
2. Briefly discuss the three views of moral purity as it relates to a believers life.
  - ❑ **Moralism** = My moral purity earns God's favor.
  - ❑ **Antinomianism** = Moral purity is irrelevant because grace super abounds when I sin.
  - ❑ **Biblical** – Moral purity is the natural outgrowth of who I am as a child of God and it reflects His character and holiness.

3. In what area of your life did God convict you personally? In what ways does your thinking, actions, speech, or attitude not reflect the “new you?”
  
4. What will it look like this week to follow God’s **three-fold principles for transformation**? Be as specific as possible.
  - (a) I will “put off” \_\_\_\_\_ this week by . . .
  
  - (b) I will “renew my mind” this week by \_\_\_\_\_ . . .
  
  - (c) I will put on \_\_\_\_\_ this week by . . .