

Non-Gentile living

Ephesians 4:17-5:2

The purpose is

to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. (NIV Eph 1:10)

The risk assessment—it could all go horribly wrong!
(It did in Corinth)

The problem is Gentile thinking

Non-Gentile thinking

Gentile = Nation = *ethnos*, culture, values, community.

1. The need for a change of spirit (vv17-24)
 - Futile thinking (vv17-19)
 - Re-education (vv20-24)
2. Four practical implications (v25-29)
 - Notice 'therefore' in v25
 - Falsehood, unrighteous anger, stealing, unwholesome talk
3. A Trinitarian summary (4:30-5:2).

1. The need for a change of spirit (vv17-24)

Futile thinking (vv17-19)

If we are the product of our genes, we can't escape
(although Dawkins claims we can!)

Political correctness suppresses free speech

“I think therefore I am”. But do I?

Worship of self always leads to self contradiction
Your god is not up to the job!

1. The need for a change of spirit (vv17-24)

Futile thinking (vv17-19)

Worship of self always leads to self contradiction
Your god is not up to the job!

Example, self worship skews marriage:

Does this marriage work?

Does this marriage work for me?

Or:

Does this marriage work for me?

Does this marriage work?

1. The need for a change of spirit (vv17-24)

Futile thinking (vv17-19)

Worship of self always leads to self contradiction

Your god is not up to the job

V18: a callous on the heart!

“I think therefore I am—I think...”

The Ephesians worshipped Diana in their own image—
but why bother with the middle god?

The West worships self directly.

But meaning, morality, eternity are lost (Eccles. 3:11).

We are caught in a radical ignorance (v18).

1. The need for a change of spirit (vv17-24)

Re-education

Not an abandonment of reason (Isaiah 1:16)
but a different mindset

What did you *learn*? (v20,21)

A personality transplant (v22), a change of style

2. Four practical implications (vv25-29)

A personality transplant (v22), a change of style

Truthful relationships (v25)

Lying is simply self-harm

Take care when angry (v26)

Don't make it a bed companion

Work, don't steal (v28)

A double bonus: useful work and money to share

Be careful what you say (v29)

Unwholesome talk shows an unwholesome mind

3. A Trinitarian summary (vv30-5:2)

God forgave you in Christ

You were sealed by the Holy Spirit, who can be grieved

So be imitators of God—put on the new lifestyle

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (NIV Eph 5:1–2)