Intro: 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

• We are going to spend the next 10 lessons and sermons dealing with the walk of a Christian. We will be dealing with every part of the Christian walk. From dealing with the outside world to dealing with the family structure. You may be surprised what you have been taught from someone verse what the bible has to say on some things.

I. Believers are not to live like sinners – 17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

a. Sinners walk with an empty mind of God

• I had an uncle who challenged me on some scripture, thinking he had me in a “gotta” moment. I politely asked him, “Are you really wanting to challenge me on hypocritical God is”? And he said yes. And oh boy I laid the pure, straight, and true word of God on him, held nothing back, and by the time I was done he was waving the flag of surrender. Sinners are empty minded on the things of God.

° 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5

b. Sinners have a dark understanding of God

• We think God is evil, when in fact we have allowed evil to be a part of our lives for so long it is now considered normal. You allowed evil in your veins, you allowed evil in your minds, your allowed evil in your homes, you allowed evil in your schools, you allowed evil in your cities, you allowed evil in your politics, it is you who has allowed evil in your life, not God.

° 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. Mark 10:18

c. Sinners are separated from God

1. Because of their ignorance

2. Because of their arrogance

• We are separated from God because of our sin, and all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God, and yes Christians still sin; we are not perfect, just perfected in Christ. So, what is the difference between a sinner and saint, one is forgiven the other one ain’t.

° 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:16, 17

d. Sinners have allowed the past to harden them

• You can ask any lost person why they will not turn the lives over to God, and the majority, if not all, will point to some event, or some trial that had occurred in the life as prove that God is not all what he says he is. They will use that trial, a loss of a loved one, a job, a war, or anything that has caused some hardship and pain, as an excuse to harden the hearts towards God.

° 6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” Hebrews 4:6, 7

e. Sinners will indulge in sensuality and greed

• The word “sensuality” (aselgeia) means to seductively lure, to act, or draw attention to yourself. It is the pursuit, enjoyment, physical and sexual attention that you attract to yourself for pleasure and self-satisfaction – "he ate the grapes with surprising sensuality", “she is dressed inappropriately for this occasion.” God does care about how we are look, how we are to act, and how we are perceived in front of others.

II. Believers are to walk as Christ walked – 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ!— 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

a. We have been taught how to walk

• Christ never lived a sinful life. All his life He taught us how to live a life of victory. We have been taught how to live, but we refuse to do so because of sin, shame, insecurities, false doctrine, and others. Some of the most difficult teaching to overcome are those stories of God passed down from generation to generation that our grandparents taught that are not found in the Bible.

° 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. Luke 1:3, 4

b. The ways we walk in Christ are

1. We keep off the old man

• If I was to describe to you a profession of any kind, by just saying a few words of description you would be able to point out what profession I was talking about. If someone was to describe your walk, by using a few words of description would it reflect your walk with Christ?

° 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:9, 10

2. We recommit our mind to Christ

• The sinner has empty minds of the things of Christ, we are to have a mind of Christ. Full of the gloriest things of God.

° 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, Philippians 2:5, 6

3. We are to put on the new man

• If we are to keep the old man off, it stands to reason we need to replace that with something else. We need to put on the new man, the fruit of the Spirit is a good place to start. Pastor Mike has come up with a series on the fruit of the Spirit. If you are interested in a good devotional study, see the office for your copy.

° 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23