

Miraculous Mosaic# 28
Ephesians 4:15-17
January 23, 2005 – Josiah Bancroft Preaching

Scripture Text: Ephesians 4:22-32

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Josiah pointed to Paul's "three-step process" for life change last week.

- 1) "Put Off" – v.22
- 2) "Be Made New" – v. 23
- 3) "Put on the New" – v. 24

Today, from vv. 25 through 32, he applies this process to several specific behaviors that effect life.

- 1) As a group, identify each behavior application and show where the three-step process is either specifically used or correctly assumed in Paul's application.
- 2) How could a person take a statement from this passage, and by not approaching it from all three steps, lose the process of grace transformation, and instead turn that portion of the application into a new, and inappropriate, legalism.
- 3) Have you ever approached these exhortations, or heard them applied in such a way as to be legalism?