

# *Free To Grow*



Ephesians 4.17-5.2 (NIV11)

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. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

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; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Do 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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

rebellion or submission –  
we submit to his authority

Ephesians 4.18 (NIV11)

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

1Samuel 15.23

For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. (NIV11)

Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. (NLT)

1Peter 2.13-14 (NIV11)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

Hebrews 5.7 (NIV11)

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

bondage or freedom –  
we break any chain

Romans 6.5-7 (NLT)

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives.

We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

Romans 6.8-10 (NLT)

And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again.

Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.

Romans 6.11 (NLT)

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6.12-14 (NLT)

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life.

So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

The more we act in obedience to God, through the power of his Spirit, the freer we will be to grow