

## Mastering Maturity

*In Ephesians 4:17-32, Paul calls his readers to walk in spiritual maturity. As we study the two interconnected parts of the maturity process we will possess an effective plan for ongoing spiritual maturity!*

**The First Part of the Maturity Process: The M\_\_\_\_\_ of Maturity (4:17-24) - Paul contrasts the mindset of the unbeliever with the believer.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ephesians 4:17-19</b>  <b>The Mindset of the Unbeliever</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ephesians 4:20-24</b>  <b>The Mindset of the Believer</b></p>
<p><b>Introduction - 4:17</b>                      Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord:</p>	<p><b>Introduction - 4:20-21</b>                      But that is not how you learned about the Messiah, <sup>21</sup> assuming you heard Him and were taught by Him, because the truth is in Jesus</p>
<p><b>Appeal - 4:17</b>                      You should no longer walk as the Gentiles walk</p>	<p><b>Appeal - 4:22</b>                      you took off your former way of life, the old man that is corrupted by deceitful desires;</p>
<p><b>The Reprobate Mind - 4:17-18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the futility of their thoughts.</li> <li>• They are darkened in their understanding,</li> <li>• excluded from the life of God,</li> <li>• because of the ignorance that is in them</li> <li>• and because of the hardness of their hearts</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Renewed Mind - 4:23</b>                      you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds;</p>
<p><b>Unrestrained Sinful Behavior - 4:19</b>                      They became callous and gave themselves over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to promiscuity</li> <li>• for the practice of every kind of impurity</li> <li>• with a desire for more and more</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unrestrained Righteous Behavior - 4:24</b>                      You put on the new man,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the one created according to God's [likeness]</li> <li>• in righteousness</li> <li>• and purity of the truth.</li> </ul>

**The Second Part of the Maturity Process: The M\_\_\_\_\_ of Maturity (4:25-32)**

Sinful Behavior to Put Off	Holy Behavior To Put On	The Truth that Renews The Mind
<b>Lying - 4:25</b> Since you put away lying	Speak the truth, each one to his neighbor	because we are members of one another
<b>Anger - 4:26-27</b> Be angry and do not sin	Don't let the sun go down on your anger	and don't give the Devil an opportunity
<b>Stealing - 4:28</b> The thief must no longer steal	Instead, he must do honest work with his own hands	so that he has something to share with anyone in need
<b>Corrupt Speech - 4:29</b> No rotten talk should come from your mouth	but only what is good for the building up of someone in need	in order to give grace to those who hear
<b>Bitterness - 4:30-32</b> And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit, who sealed you for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> All bitterness, anger and wrath, insult and slander must be removed from you, along with all wickedness.	And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another,	just as God also forgave you in Christ.

**Message Application**