

**The Genealogy of the Unbeliever's Conduct**  
*Why Believers Should Not Act Like Unbelievers*  
Ephesians 4:17-20

**Introduction:**

**A. Genealogy**

1. What book (movie and mini-series) sparked the American craze of tracing ancestry? – Alex Haley's R\_\_\_\_\_
2. Eph 4:17-20 traces the genealogy of mankind's s\_\_\_\_\_ behavior

**B. Gentiles**

1. Jewish vocabulary – anyone who was \_\_\_\_\_ a Jew
  - a. The immediate readers of this letter would be considered Gentiles from the Jewish point of view (Eph 3:1)
  - b. Yet Paul urges his readers not to act like the Gentiles act.
2. Christian vocabulary
  - a. Once non-Jewish started accepting Christ, the term Gentile was spiritualized to mean those who were NOT f\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
  - b. Therefore Paul is urging his readers not to act like un\_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Why should believers in Christ not act like unbelievers?**

**Because unbelievers have a false s\_\_\_\_\_ of authority (17,18a)**

**A. The conduct of any unbeliever stems from their thinking**

1. Their thinking is described as futile or vain (the Greek word literally means e\_\_\_\_\_)
2. Their thinking is described as being d\_\_\_\_\_ (this is an action verb that is in a Greek tense that paints the picture of complete and u\_\_\_\_\_ darkness (spiritually speaking)
  - a. 2 Cor 4:4 states that the god of this unbelieving world b\_\_\_\_\_ the minds of unbelievers so that they not see the light of the gospel about Christ.
  - b. Unbelievers are incapable of depending on the right s\_\_\_\_\_ to guide them as to how they ought to live.

**B. Surveying the world of unbelievers**

1. There is a wide variety of standards
  - a. Some are very nice and have high moral standards
  - b. Others are nice but immoral.
  - c. Others are cruel
  - d. Some are religious

2. Many unbelievers that believe that God exists follow a standard to win God's approval.
  - a. Jesus told a story of a typical Pharisee that thought the standards he lived by won God's approval, but Jesus said that the Pharisee went away c\_\_\_\_\_ (Lk 18:10-14).
  - b. Many unbelievers think that they are a good person and so are good enough to win God's approval but Jesus said that no one is good except \_\_\_\_\_ alone (Mk 10:18)
- C. Jesus came into the world
  1. NOT to condemn the world (it was already condemned) BUT to s\_\_\_\_\_ it from condemnation (Jn 3:17)
  2. To trade His r\_\_\_\_\_ for our sinfulness (2Cor 5:21) – this applies to those who decide to trust Him to be their God and Savior.
    - a. Jesus won the approval of the Father by becoming a human being and obeying the Father perfectly even to the point of s\_\_\_\_\_ and dying on a cross (Phil 2:8).
    - b. His blood wipes away our sin so that all God the Father sees in us is the righteousness of Christ.
- D. As believers in Christ, why lapse back into darkness and live like unbelievers who follow their own standard? (2Cor 4:6)
  1. God's standard is not a r\_\_\_\_\_
  2. God's standard is a p\_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus Christ (put yourself, your conduct, your attitudes, under Him)

**Because unbelievers have a false s\_\_\_\_\_ of purpose (18b)**

- A. Unbelievers are described in verse 18b as being excluded (separated, alienated) from the l\_\_\_\_\_ that God gives.
  1. This is not talking about p\_\_\_\_\_ life (Acts 17:28)
  2. This is talking about e\_\_\_\_\_ life
- B. What is eternal life?
  1. One aspect of eternal life is living f\_\_\_\_\_ (not being dead anymore and never again to return to death – 1Cor 15:54)
  2. The main aspect is knowing the one true God and Jesus whom He sent (Jn 17:3).
    - a. The word knowledge does not mean knowing f\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. The word knowledge means knowing in a p\_\_\_\_\_ way (see Matt 17:23)
  3. Jesus gives life in a \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 10:10) – it is overflowing with meaning and purpose.

C. The temporary and the eternal

1. Did you get married, make money, and/or retire to make life more meaningful? (this would only give you t\_\_\_\_\_ meaning)
2. Jesus can make your marriage, money making, and retirement e\_\_\_\_\_ meaningful if you live out your relationship to Him IN your marriage, IN your job, IN your retirement (Col 3:17).

**Because unbelievers have a false s\_\_\_\_\_ in self (18c-20)**

- A. Unbelievers are ignorant (literally have no k\_\_\_\_\_) – 18c
1. This is not referring to intelligence
  2. This is referring to r\_\_\_\_\_ (they have none with the one true God)
- B. Unbelievers have h\_\_\_\_\_ hearts – 19a
- C. Unbelievers are filled with g\_\_\_\_\_ (they always want more) – 19b
1. They are s\_\_\_\_\_
  2. They rarely do anything without it benefiting themselves in some way (money, recognition, favors, self esteem)
- D. Unfortunately, many believers fall back into the selfish mentality but verse 20 states that we did not l\_\_\_\_\_ Christ in this way.
1. Lk 9:23 – being a Christ follower requires us to d\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves (self has always been our problem)
  2. Jesus is the epitome of unselfishness.
  3. Are we truly selfless in our earthly relationships, our jobs, our daily living?

**Conclusion:**

It makes no sense to live like an unbeliever because Jesus is:

1. Your a\_\_\_\_\_
2. Your g\_\_\_\_\_
3. Your p\_\_\_\_\_
4. Your s\_\_\_\_\_