

## Live Life Differently

by John Isaac Edwards

The slogan of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company is, “**Live Life Differently.**” I’m making spiritual application of this in our study. As Christians, we live life differently (1 Pet. 4:1-5). The Ephesians are a great example! From Paul’s letter to the saints at Ephesus, let’s be encouraged to live life differently.

1) **Dead In Sins — Quickened With Christ.** Paul wrote, “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). And again, “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ...” (Eph. 2:5). These folks were dead; now they are alive!

2) **Walked Course Of World — Walk In Good Works.** Our walk has to do with how we live (Col. 3:7). Paul said of the Ephesians, “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). Now, notice a difference in their walk. Ephesians 2:10 reveals, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,

which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Now that they live life differently, they are giving God the glory (Mt. 5:16)!

3) **Without Christ — In Christ.** The story continues. “That at that time ye were without Christ...having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12). What a miserable way to live! That’s your condition outside of the Lord. You don’t have to live that way. You can live life differently! Ephesians 2:13 says, “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” Without Christ, they had no hope. Now, they have a living hope! (1 Pet. 1:3). Without Christ, they were afar off. Now, they are nigh! Christ made all the difference in their lives!

4) **Strangers And Foreigners — Fellowcitizens.** Ephesians 2:12 describes these folks in time past as “aliens” and “strangers.” Verse 19 says, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” Ever been a stranger in a foreign land? Imagine living as a stranger and foreigner versus

living life with all the benefits of full citizenship!

5) **Lasciviousness And Uncleaness — Righteousness And Holiness.** Notice the words that were descriptive of their life. “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Eph. 4:19). Lasciviousness is unbridled lust; “wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females.” Now, they live life differently! Ephesians 4:24 records, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” They have cleaned up their lives! 1 Thessalonians 4:7 states, “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

6) **Lying — Speaking Truth.** Some are habitual liars. If their lips are moving, they are lying! Such people cannot be trusted. You can live life differently! “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25). Imagine living where there are no liars or lying. Such will be the case in heaven (Rev. 21:8, 27)!

**7) Angry — Not Letting Sun Go Down On Wrath.**

Being angry is not a sin, in and of itself. Jesus was angry on occasion (Mk. 3:5). Ephesians 4:26 says, “Be ye angry, and sin not...” The Bible speaks of “an angry man” (Prov. 22:24) and “an angry woman” (Prov. 21:19). Who wants to live with or be a friend with such? Perhaps, you’ve been an angry person. You can live life differently! You can go to bed at night without anger. Remember these words: “...let not the sun go down upon your wrath” (Eph. 4:26).

**8) Stealing — Working And Giving.**

Some live as thieves. You can live life differently. Ephesians 4:28 teaches, “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” This is replacement therapy! It’s not enough to quit a bad or sinful habit. You must replace it with something good and right. Quit stealing. Work. Give to him who is in need. Live life differently. As Mr. Q Barbecue says, “Try it.”

**9) Corrupt Communication — Edifying.**

Know anyone whose communication is corrupt? Corrupt communication is that which is unfit for use; worthless; and tears down. How’s our communication. If you’ve been a person of corrupt communication, you can live life differently. Read Ephesians 4:29 — “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

**10) Bitterness, Wrath, Anger, Clamour, Evil Speaking — Kind, Tenderhearted, Forgiving, Loving, Giving.**

Which group of words best describe your life: “bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking” or “kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, loving, giving”? If you’ve been the former, let me appeal to you to live life differently. Be impressed with these words: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one

another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you....And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour” (Eph. 4:31-5:2).

How was it possible for the folks in Ephesus to live life differently? It was by God’s mercy, love, grace, and kindness! “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us” (Eph. 2:4). “...by grace ye are saved” (Eph. 2:5, 8). “...the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7). And it was through their faith! “For by grace are ye saved through faith...” (Eph. 2:8). Note how the Ephesians were saved by grace through faith, making it possible for them to live life differently: They heard the word (Eph. 1:13), believed (Eph. 1:13), repented (Acts 20:21), confessed (Acts 19:18), and were baptized (Acts 19:5). God’s saving grace has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11). We would like to appeal to you by the grace of God to live life differently.

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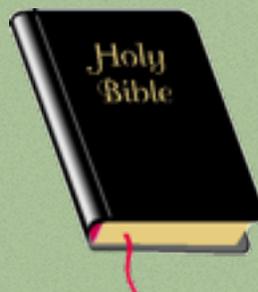
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