

## **THINGS TO ABANDON**

### **Ephesians 4:17-24**

**Introduction:** It is obvious that there are some Christians who actually appear to be Christians, they are living as Jesus wants them to live, being like Him. Then there are Christians who appear to not be Christians. They are living contrary to how others think Christians should be living, as well as contrary as to how Jesus has described how His followers should live. There is only one way for Christians to live and that is how Jesus describes and commands. In order to live as Jesus describes, there are things that have to be put off, things to be abandoned.

#### **I. CHRISTIANS CANNOT HAVE HARD HEARTS**

1. "porosis" - Harder than marble kind of heart is not the kind of heart for a Christian. Having such hardness causes one to not even be aware of sin being committed.
2. A hard heart causes the loss of all the power of sensation of right and wrong and sin is committed.
3. A hard heart is caused by sin so slowly petrifying in one's life that he/she is not even aware of it, thinking he/she is as good as anybody else.
4. A hard heart blinds and deafens the Christian to his/her actual condition of being out of God's will.

#### **II. SIN CAUSES FORGETFULNESS**

1. A Christian so dominated by sin will forget about shame and decency.
2. "aselgeia" - The Christian in such a state will be past feeling sorrow for sin and have no remorse for committing sin.
3. The Christian in such a state will not even try to hide his/her sinful behavior.
4. There will be no care nor standards in certain areas of sin and the guilty Christian will see nothing wrong with his/her actions, for after all, "everybody else is doing the same thing, why not me?"

#### **III. SIN CAUSES ONE TO NOT CARE WHO IS HURT OR WHAT IS DESTROYED**

1. The person living in sin is so controlled by desire that there is no care who is injured or what is destroyed so long as that desire is satisfied.
2. "pleonexia" - An arrogant greediness is exhibited by one so deep in sin.
3. Sin drives one to desire what is not his/hers to do whatever it takes to get that "thing."
4. Sin causes the sinner to have no concern of the rights of others and no matter who is hurt or what happens, he/she just has to have that "thing."

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Attitudes such as these just described sound terrible and horrible and indeed they are, yet they are exhibited daily by people we know and yes, sadly, even by some Christians.
2. Christians are to change - Christians are to leave, walk away from, abandon such a way of life.
3. Christians are to put on the ways of Jesus Christ, put on what God wants each Christian to have.
4. God's Word teaches what Jesus expects and wants from His followers.
5. Those who truly belong to Jesus Christ will obey Him and live as He instructs and be examples to others.
6. No Christian has the power to live as Jesus Christ expects all by him/herself. The Holy Spirit has been given to each Christian to help to live and do as Christ wants.