

Hardness Leads to Sensuality

Ephesians 4:19a (LEB)

who, becoming **callous**, gave themselves over to **licentiousness**

- “Callous” implies moral apathy, hardness
- “Licentiousness” concerns blatant acts done with no shame or standard of acceptable behavior
- The pagans created this situation by giving themselves over to it (Rom. 1:28)

An Impure Pursuit of More

Ephesians 4:19b (LEB)

...for the pursuit of all uncleanness in greediness.

- “Pursuit” is *ergasia* which means “to work with diligence”
- “Uncleanness” usually means ritual impurity but here denotes moral impurity
- “Greediness” is a strong desire for more that drives people to get what they crave

New Life in Christ

Ephesians 4:20 (LEB)

But you did not learn Christ in this way

- “Learn Christ” is unique terminology and is both relational and cognitive
- This implies a new identity in Christ and a new way to live
- In contrast to the wicked ways of the pagans, we must live to please Christ

Know Christ Who Is the Truth

Ephesians 4:21 (LEB)

if indeed you have heard about him, and you were taught by him (just as truth is in Jesus)

- The conditional means “if as is the case”
- Jesus is the truth (John 14:6)
- “Christ” in vs. 20 bookends “Jesus” here
- “The truth” is in strong contrast to the futility of the unregenerate mind (vs. 17)

Implications and Applications

- Beware of becoming hardened through moral apathy
- Living for Christ means changed lives and eternal hope

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The Judgment of Hardening

Romans 1:28 (ESV)

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- Literally, “they did not approve of God... God gave them over to a disapproved mind”
- Rom. 1:29-31 describe what is not proper
- Willful, persistent sin brings hardening

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Approving Evil Brings Death

Romans 1:32 (HCSB)

Although they know full well God’s just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die — they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

- This knowledge is revealed even through general revelation (Rom. 1:18-21)
- “Applaud” is *suneudokeo* which is “good pleasure” with *sun* prefix

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Redeemed With Eternal Hope

Titus 2:11-14a (ESV)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness...

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