

## **Ephesians 4:17-19 -**

"I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer **live** as the **Gentiles** do, in the **futility** of their **thinking**. **They are darkened** in their **understanding** and **separated** from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is **in them** due to the **hardening** of their **hearts**. **Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality** so as to **indulge** in every kind of **impurity**, with a **continual lust for more**."

(*L&EK GNT = Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*)

**live** - περιπατειν (to walk)- *L&EK GN* - to walk about, to conduct one's life, points to a habitual action.

**Gentiles** - εθνη (nations)- *L&EK GNT*- people, Gentiles, heathen, those who were not Jews. The Jews considered Gentiles as basically immoral. Gentiles accepted premarital sex, homosexuality, idolatry. But these things were considered wrong and should be abstained from as a Jew.

**futility** ματαιοτητι (vanity)- *L&EK GNT* -vanity, emptiness. Contains the idea of aimlessness, leading to no object or end

**thinking** νοος (mind)- *L&EK GNT* - mind, thinking facility, reasoning capacity.  
Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:3

**They are darkened** εσκοτωμενοι (having been darkened)- *L&EK GNT* - to darken. The perfect participle is used in a periphrastic construction indicating the continuing darkened condition.

**understanding** διανοια (intellect)- *L&EK GNT* - thinking through, understanding, intelligence, the mind as the organ of thinking

**separated** απηλλοτριωμενοι ( having been alienated)- *L&EK GNT* - to estrange, to alienate. The perfect tense emphasizes the continuing state of existence; being alienated from the life of God. It does not imply that they had at one time enjoyed that life; it means simply being aliens from it.

**ignorance** αγνοιαν (ignorance)- *L&EK GNT* - ignorance, lack of knowledge. It refers to the inability to comprehend and see the light.

**in them** ουσαν εν αυτοις (being in them)-

**hardening** πωρωσιν (hardness)- When free will and a persons thinking become insensitive to God. "Hardening" of the heart is a progressive state which hardens the conscience to respond to God. This person actually opposes God. Pharaoh's hardened his heart (Ex. 7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:35) then God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Ex.4:21; 7:3; 14:4). See Psalm 95:8 as in Exodus 15:22 and Hebrews 3:7

**hearts** καρδιας (heart)-

**Having lost all sensitivity** απηληγκοτες (having ceased to care)- *L&EK GNT*- to cease to feel pain or grief, to become callous, insensible to pain. The translation 'past feeling' expresses the sense accurately. The lack of moral feeling and discernment means the inability to exercise any restraint. "This is a classical term which means primarily that one's skin has become callous and no longer feels pain" (F.F. Bruce) In classical usage it means "put away sorrow" and to "be despondent". Used around 200 BC to mean "ceasing to feel pain."

**they have given themselves over** εαυτους παρεδωκαν (themselves gave up)- *L&EK GNT* - to deliver over to, to hand over to.

These people are clearly blamed for their own condition.

Their impurity and debauchery first hardens them and then in Romans 1:24-28 it destroys them.

**sensuality** ασελγεια (to lewdness)- *L&EK GNT* - unrestrained living.

This means "debauchery" and is one of the "works of the flesh" in Gal. 5:19. The idea here is to throw off all restraint and flaunt itself fearless of judgment or shame, disregarding the rights or feelings of others or public decency. Colossians 3:5 says to put this off.

**indulge** εργασιαν (work)- *L&EK GNT* - working, producing, performance, practice

**impurity** ακαθαρσιας (uncleanness)- *L&EK GNT* - uncleanness, filthiness, impurity

**continual lust for more** πλεονεξια (greediness)- *L&EK GNT* - insatiable craving greed, consuming ambition, giving rein to appetites and desires which are against the laws of God and man.

This word is "covetousness". It is the climax of Ephesians 5:5 as well as the climax here.

This may be considered a third of three vices mentioned: Debauchery, Impurity and Covetousness, or in the NIV Sensuality, Impurity and Lust.

Lev. 18:3, 24-30; 20:23-24