

## Eight Words to Change Your Family For Life

### Word # 8 Change

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Ephesians 4:21-27

Why is it so hard to change the stuff in us we don't like?

1. Because I've had them so long.
2. I identify with them.
3. My defects have a payoff.
4. Satan discourages me.

*LP* True life change comes only through partnership with God and begins by rejecting all self-centered change methods.

*LP* When we pursue God's plan for change, it always works.

### PRINCIPLES FOR PERSONAL CHANGE

#### 1. Change requires learning the truth.

*"Since you have heard all about Jesus and have learned the truth that is in him..." Eph. 4:21*

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do."* 2 Tim. 3:16-17 (NLT)

#### 2. Change requires making choices.

*"...throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception."* Eph. 4:22

*"... Continue to **WORK OUT** your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who **WORKS IN** you to will and to act according to his good purpose."* Phil. 2:12-13

#### 3. Change requires new thinking.

*"Instead there must be spiritual renewal in your hearts and minds". Eph. 4:23*

*"Let the same mind and attitude be in you which was in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5*

#### 4. Change requires the Holy Spirit.

*"You must put on your new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true." Eph. 4:24*

*"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him." 1 Cor. 3:18*

*For it is God who is working inside of you giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him." Philippians 2:13*

#### 5. Change requires honest community.

*"So put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other." Eph. 4:25*

*"By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2 (NCV)*

#### 6. Change requires overcoming strongholds.

*"Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil." Eph. 4:26-27*

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:10-11*

*"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete."* 2 Corinthians 10:3-7