Ephesians 4:20-25 The Old Man and The New

-in the previous verses, we saw God's desire for His church
(His ultimate desire is for the church to grow and flourish in unity and love)
*Paul even reminds his readers that God will send spiritually gifted people in order for that to happen
-then, he reminds them in vs.17-19 that their manner of life should be different than it was before they were saved

Vs.20-what he is saying here is that they have been taught different things by Christ
(this teaching applied causes one to abandon the old way of life)
*many Gentile cultures taught and even encouraged sinful lifestyles
(lasciviousness, uncleanness, and greediness)- Ephesus was no different
*Christ teaches men to renounce sin and indulgences to cultivate holiness and virtue

Vs.21-what he's saying here- "if you have truly listened to Him and have let Him teach you correctly, then you won't walk as other Gentiles walk"
-"truth"-(aletheia) this word carries several meanings
1-the reality of something based on an appearance or a manifestation
2-something firm, solid, valid, or sure
3-words stated that reveal something valid and accurate
*the idea of that Paul makes is in where the truth lies (in Jesus) and makes all definitions applicable
(the teachings of Christ are accurate and should be heard- I John 5:20)

Vs.22- "put off"- to take off and throw down, to renounce, to abandon
(the indication of this phrase is repentance)
-"conversation"- manner of life, conduct, behavior, or characteristics
-"old man"-this adjective Paul uses here indicates a garment that is stained and falling apart that will eventually rot to the point that it can no longer be worn
*the old man is the unregenerate self that is stained with sin and decaying more every day
-"corrupt"-(phtheiro) depraved and perishing
-"deceitful lusts"-these worldly cravings and desires are so deceitful that the natural man can't even see what it's doing to him

Vs.23- "renewed"- present tense in Greek and implies a continual and progressing renewal- II Cor.4:16
(this is the antithesis of the progressing corruptness of the old man)
-"spirit of your mind"- salvation is a regeneration of the dead spirit in mankind but also involved the mind (Romans 12:2)
*the mind is the center of thought, understanding, and belief (also the center for motives)
Truth- when one is saved, God gives new spiritual and moral capabilities that the natural mind could never possess- I Cor.2:9-16

Vs.24- "new man"- salvation is not only a renovation of character, but a complete transformation of old to new (the new character is simply the evidence of the new man)
(vs.22 shows the repentance-"put off" / vs.23 shows the transformation / this verse shows the results)
Truth- the new man is created as the old man dies- Romans 6:3-7
*since God is righteous and holy, when He saves, He creates us to be righteous and holy
(salvation is the creation of a brand new man)
Truth- it was man that corrupted God's creation in the beginning- including himself
(God doesn't try to fix the old, He just creates brand new)

Vs.25-"putting away"- this is the same word (apotithemi) that Paul uses in vs.22
*this behavior is to be thrown down and abandoned the same way the "old man" is cast down
-"lying"- this is conscious and intentional falsehoods (also perverse, impious, and deceitful precepts)
Truth- lying can be exaggerations or fabrications added to something that would otherwise be true
-since Satan is the "father of lies", lying is his language
-"truth"- Paul is quoting from Zech.8:16 (the truth is what helps, heals, and honors)
*Paul is saying to guard their tongues and only speak things that honor God and help others