

**Access Denied**  
**"To the Old Man"**

**Introduction:**

"There's nothing wrong with me," the man says! "But sir, you've just been in a terrible accident and you are bruised and bleeding and could have internal bleeding." "There's nothing wrong!" "At least let me have a doctor check you out. We have an ambulance right here...it won't take long." "I told you there is nothing wrong with me." "But sir!" Then the man walks away from the car accident. His wife picks him up and drives him home. Later, he dies from the internal bleeding.

- ✓ "There's nothing wrong with me" can be a dangerous, thing to say.
- ✓ Spiritually it is probably the worst thing that could be said. (Imagine standing before God saying-"I'm fine-nothing is wrong with me)."
- ✓ Opposite of "nothing wrong with me" is "everything is wrong with me."
- ✓ A Christian stands before God and says, "Everything is wrong with me but Jesus Christ has overcome my sin."

Season of Lent (Traditionally 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter)-commemorating the 40 day fast in the wilderness of Jesus-traditionally people fast, give up something

NOTE: Story Jesus told in Luke 18 helps us to understand what Lent is!

What it is not

Luke 18:9-14

- ✓ 2 men went to the temple to pray-Pharisee and Tax Collector
- ✓ Pharisee (self-righteous)/Tax Collector (self-loathing)
- ✓ Pharisee-God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortionist, unjust, adulterers-or even the tax collector (fast twice weekly, tithe all I possess)
- ✓ Tax Collector (wouldn't raise eyes, stood afar off, beating chest "God, be merciful to me, a sinner.")
- ✓ Pharisee paraphrased-"God! I thank you there's nothing wrong with me." (In truth-did all the right things-not much wrong with him!)
- ✓ Tax Collector paraphrased-"God there's everything wrong with me. Help me!" He was the one forgiven.

***I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:14 NKJV***

- Not forgiven because he was so humbled
- Forgiven because of God's mercy
- Those who say nothing's wrong with me-receive no mercy
- Those who say everything is wrong with me-receive mercy!

\*\* Tax Collector-a picture of lent-Pharisee the opposite

- Lent is a time of self-denial
- But not just stuff —it's about what is going on in our hearts
- What things are in our lives that should not be there?
- We have allowed access to
- This season we will say-“Access Denied”

Today-access must be denied to the old man

### Old Man/New Man Metaphor

- First appearance

***Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. Romans 6:6-7 NKJV***

***For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19 NKJV***

- One man's (Adam's) disobedience brought death, the fall, estranged life apart from God
- One man's (Christ's) obedience brought life and made us righteous

- Paul's logic

***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. Romans 6:1-6 NKJV***

- Old man is all that was part of Adam's race (disobedience, sin, wandering from God)
- New Man is life of Christ in me

(ILL) Kid's Song

I'll tell you the best thing I ever did do (3 times)  
Was take off the old robe, and put on the new!  
The old robe was dirty, all tattered and torn,  
the new robe was spotless and never been worn  
I'll tell you the best thing I ever did do  
Was take off the old robe and put on the new

Access Denied to the Old Man

— How do we deny access to the old man?

Four simple truths

### I. Must embrace the REDEMPTIVE work of Christ

*But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:20-24 NKJV*

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30 NKJV*

#### A. Repentance brings forgiveness and redemption

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 NKJV*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7 NKJV*

#### B. Redemption produces in us the new man (a new creation)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV*

C. When we turn to Christ we put off old man/put on new

***But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Colossians 3:8-10 NKJV***

1. Standing in Christ
2. Clothed with Christ
3. New man

MUST START WITH TRUE REGENERATION/TRUE CONVERSION –MUST BE A CHANGE

**II. Must fully REALIZE the lurking danger of allowing the old man to again impede our walk with Christ.**

NOTE: This is the heart of Paul's letter to Ephesus

***This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. Ephesians 4:17-19 NKJV***

- A. The readers are Gentile converts to the faith, raised in the pagan way of life-called to abandon it
- B. Paul rehearses the ethical and spiritual bankruptcy of that life (see it in Romans 1:21)

***Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21 NKJV***

1. Futility of mind (Ephesians 4:17)
2. Understandingdarkened (Ephesians 4:18)
3. Alienated from the life of God (Ephesians 4:18)
4. Ignorant and blinded heart (Ephesians 4:18)
5. Past feeling (Ephesians 4:19)

C. Not a reflection of what Christ had done

***But you have not so learned Christ. Ephesians 4:20 NKJV***

D. Great peril to walk again in old man-past feeling (v. 19)

1. Lost all moral sensitivity
2. Classical term meaning-one's skin has become callous-no longer feels pain

If I am to put off the old man, I must be aware of danger!

### III. **Must commit to a RENEWING of our minds.**

NOTE AGAIN:

- ✓ Futility of mind (17)
- ✓ Darkened understanding (18)
- ✓ Ignorant (v. 11)
- ✓ Contrast-“not so learned Christ” (v. 20); “taught by Him as truth in Jesus” (v. 2)

KEY: Renewed mind

***And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, Ephesians 4:23 NKJV***

- A. If I am going to deny access to the old man, I must commit to a renewing of my mind
- B. I can't revive the new life merely by trying to live up to an external standard
  1. The wellspring of new life resides in the spiritual mind
  2. Right thinking

***This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory 2 Peter 3:1 NIV***

C. Right thinking comes only from a renewed mind

***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 NKJV***

D. Renewed mind

1. Not conformed to the world's way of thinking
2. Transformed into the mind of Christ

***But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV***

3. Clearly a work of the Spirit

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4. Spirit's agent (word of God-sword; Ephesians 6:17)

*That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, Ephesians 5:26 NKJV*

#### **IV. Must possess a tenacious RESOLVE.**

“Put off”-“put on”—aggressive terms

- A. Resolved to integrity always

*Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. Ephesians 4:25 NKJV*

- B. Resolved to reconcile rather than hold grudges

*"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV*

- C. Resolved to be generous rather than selfish

*Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Ephesians 4:28 NKJV*

- D. Resolved to encourage not tear down

*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:29-30 NKJV*

- E. Resolve to be kind and forgiving, rather than vengeful and bitter

*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32 NKJV*

**Conclusion:** As we fast and pray over the next 40 days, prepare to walk in resurrection power—will you say “no” to the old man?

1. Based on your redemption
2. Realizing the danger of falling
3. Renewing your mind
4. Resolved to put off the old man

ACCESS DENIED!