LESSON ELEVEN

**The Conformed Mind**

**Key Verse**

**2 Corinthians 3:5 - 5**Not that we are competent in ourselves([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+3%3A5&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28847A)) to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+3%3A5&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28847B))

**Lesson Summary**

This lesson introduces an error-proof formula for every Christian who desires to have the mind of Christ. It encourages each Christian to please God in the sincerest way by conforming his thoughts, desires, reactions, opinions, and beliefs in such a way that emulates Christ. These three practical steps of conforming our minds are intended to motivate us to godliness and holiness.

**Lesson Aim**

To establish a desire in the heart of each Christian to conform his mind to the mind of Christ.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Search their minds and repent of any sinful patterns they find in their lives.
2. Realize that Satan will tempt them no matter the circumstances.
3. Determine to resist Satan's luring with the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Choose to implement the replacement theory by putting off sinful habits and putting on a Spirit­ filled life.

**Teaching Outline**

1. Repent of Sinful Patterns
   1. The realization of sinful thought patterns
   2. The repentance of sinful thought patterns
2. Resist with Spirit-Filled Power
   1. The enhancement of the Spirit
   2. The emptying of self
3. Replace with Scriptural Precepts
   1. Putting off is equivalent to repentance.
   2. Putting on is equivalent to restoration.

**Text**

**Ephesians 4:22-24 - 22**You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29295A)) your old self,([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29295B)) which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29295C)) **23**to be made new in the attitude of your minds;([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29296D)) **24**and to put on([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29297E)) the new self,([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29297F)) created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A22-24&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29297G))

**2 Corinthians 3:5 - 5**Not that we are competent in ourselves([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+3%3A5&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28847A)) to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+3%3A5&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28847B)*"*

**Romans 8:29** *- "* **29**For those God foreknew([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A29&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28146A)) he also predestined([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A29&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28146B)) to be conformed to the image of his Son*..."*

**Acts 8:22 -** *"* **22**Repent([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8%3A22&version=NIV#cen-NIV-27199A)) of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart."

**Proverbs 23:7 -** *"* for he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+23%3A7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17052a)] “Eat and drink,” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.*..."*

**D.L. Moody** - "God commands us to be filled with the Spirit; and if we aren't filled, it's because we are living beneath our privileges:'

**Zechariah 4:6 -** "...This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+4%3A6&version=NIV#cen-NIV-22929A)) ‘Not([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+4%3A6&version=NIV#cen-NIV-22929B)) by might nor by power,([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+4%3A6&version=NIV#cen-NIV-22929C)) but by my Spirit,’([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+4%3A6&version=NIV#cen-NIV-22929D)) says the Lord Almighty.*"*

**Ephesians 3:20 -** *"* **20**Now to him who is able([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A20&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29272A)) to do immeasurably more than all we ask([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A20&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29272B)) or imagine, according to his power([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3%3A20&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29272C)) that is at work within us,*"*

**John 3:30 -** *"He must increase, but I must decrease"*

**Ephesians 5:18 - 18**Do not get drunk on wine,([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A18&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29323A)) which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A18&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29323B))*"*

**Psalm 1:1-2 -** Blessed is the one([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941A))     who does not walk([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941B)) in step with the wicked([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941C)) or stand in the way([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941D)) that sinners take([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941E)) or sit([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941F)) in the company of mockers,([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13941G)) **2**but whose delight([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13942H)) is in the law of the Lord,([I](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13942I)) and who meditates([J](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+1%3A1-2&version=NIV#cen-NIV-13942J)) on his law day and night.

**Ephesians 4:28 - 28**Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work,([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A28&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29301A)) doing something useful with their own hands,([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A28&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29301B)) that they may have something to share with those in need.([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A28&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29301C))

**Romans 12:9-21 - 9**Love must be sincere.([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28255A)) Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28255B)) **10**Be devoted to one another in love.([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28256C)) Honor one another above yourselves.([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28256D)) **11**Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor,([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28257E)) serving the Lord. **12**Be joyful in hope,([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28258F)) patient in affliction,([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28258G)) faithful in prayer.([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28258H)) **13**Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.([I](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28259I)) Practice hospitality.([J](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28259J)) **14**Bless those who persecute you;([K](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28260K)) bless and do not curse. **15**Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.([L](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28261L)) **16**Live in harmony with one another.([M](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28262M)) Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28262a)] Do not be conceited.([N](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28262N)) **17**Do not repay anyone evil for evil.([O](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28263O)) Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.([P](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28263P)) **18**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.([Q](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28264Q)) **19**Do not take revenge,([R](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28265R)) my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28265b)]([S](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28265S)) says the Lord. **20**On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28266c)]([T](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A9-21&version=NIV#cen-NIV-28266T)) **21**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Colossians 3:8-10 -** *"* **8**But now you must also rid yourselves([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29526A)) of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander,([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29526B)) and filthy language from your lips.([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29526C)) **9**Do not lie to each other,([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29527D)) since you have taken off your old self([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29527E)) with its practices **10**and have put on the new self,([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29528F)) which is being renewed([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29528G)) in knowledge in the image of its Creator.([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A8-10&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29528H))*"*

**Philippians 4:7-9 – "7**And the peace of God,([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A7-9&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29450A)) which transcends all understanding,([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A7-9&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29450B)) will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8**Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A7-9&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29452C)) And the God of peace([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A7-9&version=NIV#cen-NIV-29452D)) will be with you.

**1 John 1:9 -**  **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John+1%3A9&version=NIV#cen-NIV-30550A)) and purify us from all unrighteousness.([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John+1%3A9&version=NIV#cen-NIV-30550B))*"*

**Study Questions**

1. What are we to do with our wickedness according to Acts 8:22?

2. List three or four sinful thought patterns that could threaten your life's direction.

3. What analogy does the Scripture use in Ephesians 5:18? *Expound upon the truth found in this verse*

4. The replacement theory-putting off the sinful nature and putting on a Spirit-filled life-is found throughout the Bible. God emphasizes "replacement" in several places throughout Scripture. Read the following Scriptures and summarize each replacement that was made: Psalm 1:1-2, Ephesians 4:28, and Romans 12:9-21.

5. The old must be replaced by that which is new. Write out Colossians 3:8-10.

6. We cannot conform our minds to the mind of Christ in our own power. Read 2 Corinthians 3:5 and explain where we can get strength sufficient enough for this task.

7. List the three practical steps given in this lesson which lead to a mind conformed to Christ.

8. "Unless we have within us that which is above us, we will soon give in to the pressures around us." How can this quote help you live out your regular schedule this week?

**Memory Verse**

*"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;"*

*(2* Corinthians 3:5)