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## NO LONGER LIVING AS THE GENTILES

*No Longer Living as the Gentiles* builds upon an observed tension in recent scholarly discussion of the ethical content of Ephesians 4.17-6.9. The first part of the extract has been interpreted as drawing a clear social contrast between the addressees and the outside world, and even as legitimating social withdrawal or separation from outsiders. Conversely, the latter part has been read as encouraging integration into the wider society in an attempt to curb accusations of social disruptiveness.

In this illuminating study Daniel K. Darko utilizes traditional exegetical methods, comparative analysis and social identity theory to argue that Ephesians 4.17-6.9 exhibits a consistent strategy of promoting group distinctiveness which simultaneously uses Graeco-Roman ethical values and traditions to encourage internal cohesion among the readers. Darko suggests that while the author in Ephesians 4.17-5.21 uses a rhetoric of differentiation to distinguish his readers from outsiders, the ethics he espouses form a household code of commonly held traditions and moral ideals. Thus, the readers are encouraged neither to separate from society nor to integrate further into it, but to live and function within society as members of the 'household of God' in one accord.

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