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MythBusters Series: "There Are No  
Rules"  
Ephesians 4:14-24

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**Introduction:** Willie Nelson, the legendary country music star, has a passion for golf. He loves it so much he has his own golf course. A few years ago a reporter doing a story on Willie was invited to play 18 holes with the star on his golf course. Willie took at least 11 strokes on the first hole and when his other playing partner asked him his score - Willie told him that he had a "par" on that hole. Now "par" on a typical golf course would be 3,4, or a 5 depending on how long the hole is. There certainly isn't a par 11 on any golf course in America. So the reporter asked Willie about his "par." "How can you say you had par on that hole, when you got an 11?" asked the reporter. "I make up par as I go," said Willie. "It is my golf course and I determine the rules!" That's our world isn't it? The myth is: there are no rules. It is called relativism. In two national surveys conducted by Barna Research, one among adults and one among teenagers, people were asked if they believe that there are moral absolutes that are unchanging or that moral truth is relative to the circumstances. By a 3-to-1 margin (64% vs. 22%) adults said truth is always relative to the person and their situation. The perspective was even more lopsided among teenagers, 83% of whom said moral truth depends on the circumstances, and only 6% of whom said moral truth is absolute.

**Focal Scripture:** Eph 4:14-24

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. 20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

(from New International Version)

### 1. Believers Are Marked by Calm \_\_\_\_\_ Steadfastness \_\_\_\_\_.

In their Doctrine \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 4:14

In their Development \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 4:15

In their Devotion \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 4:16

### 2. Believers Are Marked by Clear \_\_\_\_\_ Separation \_\_\_\_\_.

Separated from the Works \_\_\_\_\_ of Darkness \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 4:17-19

Separated from the Walk \_\_\_\_\_ of Darkness \_\_\_\_\_ Eph. 4:20-24

### 3. Believers Are Marked by Christlike \_\_\_\_\_ Standards \_\_\_\_\_.

Christlike in How They \_\_\_\_\_ A\_ct Eph. 4:28

Deliberations\_

Deeds \_\_\_\_\_ *Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

Dress \_\_\_\_\_

Christlike in How They \_\_\_Rea\_ct Eph. 4:26-27, 31-

Christlike in How They \_Intera\_ct Eph. 4:29-30 More than 200 years ago when the United States Marine Corp first formed, officials gave much time to considering an appropriate motto. They finally chose the Latin phrase *Semper Fidelis*. What does it mean? Always faithful