

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
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Studies in Ephesians
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. 5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

—Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (ESV)

Paul “at his best”—pithy examples of and instructions for Christian living

v 25 – “Therefore having put away falsehood (*pseudos*)...

What sorts of lying may have been occurring?

Personal storytelling? Business-related statements?...Even doctrinal conversations?

“speak the truth”—this is the instruction

“for we are members one of another”—a constant emphasis of Paul: the body of Christ. Our relationships are different!

vv 26-27 – “Be angry and do not sin”

Perhaps like a motto: *Orgizethe kai mē hamartanete*

“anger management” is not a new concept!

“Do not let the sun set upon your anger”—practical, healthy, and Biblical

“neither give opportunity to the devil”

Anger itself does not justify anything!

The devil uses anger as a prime opportunity... it is beyond measure

v 28 – “Let the thief no longer steal...”

A reminder of the “types” of people who were included in the early church—and still are!

“but rather let him toil...”

Honest work is taught by the Bible—the so-called “Protestant work ethic” is a Biblical ethic

“so that”—with a purpose beyond taking care of self and family

He may have something to share with [one] in need—another Biblical ethic

v 29 – “Let no corrupt [*sapros*] talk...”

sapros – unwholesome, rotten, useless, corrupt, depraved

This covers a wide array—not as easy to avoid as a strict “rule” about certain particular words

What is this accomplishing? What is it intended to accomplish?

But if it offers good for the edification (building up) of the occasion
“so that”—again! Same word (*hina*)

“It may give grace to those hearing.”

A perfect goal for the speech of a Christian—and particularly among Christians in community.

vv 30 -5:2—Paul’s powerful, climactic summary!

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God

What this tell us! About the Spirit Himself, and about our own behaviors.

This is not a “new” instruction, it is a way of encompassing what is being said with additional perspective

“In whom you were sealed...”—a mark of ownership from God Himself

“All bitterness and rage and anger and clamor and slander...”

“and”s are used for emphasis

“bitterness” anyone?

“clamor”—*kraugē*; basically...yelling and its kin

“slander”—*blasphēmia*

These are examples, not an inclusive list

“let be removed from you...”

We have the Spirit’s help with this!

“with all malice [*kakia*]”

Again, summative. Like saying “with all other malice”—or say it with an emphasis on the word “all”
kakia—evil, wickedness, hateful disposition

“Be [*ginesthe*] rather to one another...”

Kind, tenderhearted, forgiving each other...

Not as many words are needed!

“as God in Christ forgave you”—always a reminder to us. And to the world—there is no “abundant life”
without the forgiveness of God.

“Be [*ginesthe*] therefore imitators of God as beloved children”

An even greater summary of all that has been said

This is our model for all behavior

“and walk in love [*agape*]”

Which Paul will help us to understand in what follows...

“as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us”!

The very giving of His life and undergoing much suffering

HE is our model.

More lit. “an offering and a sacrifice to God into an aroma of a sweet smell.”

This echoes language of the OT regarding burnt offerings and sacrifices

And we are again reminded that with the *sacrifice* of Christ, there is no forgiveness, no
reconciliation with God

This is a truth for all the world