

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"Vices and Virtues # 16
Eph. 4: 25-32
11-19-17 Sun AM & PM

1. In the section on "Walking in Holiness" Paul gave us the characteristics of the walk of the old man which believers are to put off [vs. 17-19], and the walk of the new man which we are to put on [vs. 20-24].

2. Because the old man is dead and the new man is alive, and because we are being renewed by the Word of God, we are not to act like lost people.

TT: Paul makes some contrasts in the old man and the new man and shares 6 exchanges in the exchanged life. Paul shares some sins we are to put off so as not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

I. Lying vs speaking the truth [v. 25].

1. What is a lie? [v. 25a].

A lie is a statement contrary to the truth spoken with the intent to deceive. Is a half-truth a lie? Satan is the father of lies and he is a liar.

2. Why are we to tell the truth? [v. 25b].

We are members of one another and to Jesus and we can't build each other up by lies [Eph. 4:15-16].

Lying is a work of the flesh, not the Spirit. The first sin judged in the church was lying [Acts 5:1-11].

II. Unrighteous anger vs righteous anger [vs. 26-27].

1. What is anger?

An emotional arousal caused by something that displeases us. It is generated from the flesh. We can display a righteous anger [Ps. 97:10].

2. Settle the anger quickly [v. 26b-27]. So we don't give place to the devil. Don't give Satan foothold, place, occasion, or an opportunity to work thru the flesh.

III. Stealing vs sharing [v. 28].

1. The third commandment changed stealing to sharing. [v. 28a].

Our word "Kleptomaniac" comes from the Greek word. Stealing is not a disease or addiction, it is sin.

2. We work instead of steal, why? [v. 28b].

To give to those in need, to support our family, church, and help others [2 Thess. 3:10-11; 1 Tim. 5:8].

Labor is to be honest, productive, and God-honoring. A Christian should never work in a job that compromises God's standard, violates His Word, or harms others in anyway.

"Own hands" means each one is responsible for his own provision.

IV. Unwholesome words vs wholesome words [vs. 29-30].

1. What is corrupt communication? [v. 29a].

A change in heart should result in a change of speech. "Corrupt" means foul, rotten fruit, unwholesome, or filthy speech.

2. Wholesome words? [v. 29b].

What is edifying speech? Words good for building up [v. 29b]. Helpful, constructive, encouraging, uplifting and corrective in the right spirit.

Words that are appropriate. Words that fit the situation. Words that give grace or gracious. We are to speak grace even we exposing sin.

V. Grieving the Spirit vs pleasing the Spirit [v. 30].

1. The Principle [v. 30a]. "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God."

The Holy Spirit can be grieved. You can only grieve someone who loves you, and the Holy Spirit loves the believer.

"Grieve" means to cause pain, sorrow, sadness, distress, or grief. The Greek literally means "cease grieving."

Sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Sin that is contrary to the Holy Spirit's character grieves Him. So, we are not to grieve Him because of who He is- the Holy Spirit.

In our context, the Holy Spirit is grieved when we don't exchange the old man for the new man.

He is quenched when He is grieved **1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 6:16**. Quench means to stifle, to smother, to hinder, and to repress the Holy Spirit from His full influence.

2. The Promise [v. 30b]. "Whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption"

The Holy Spirit is the seal of our promise of our inheritance. The verse does not say, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit lest you grieve Him away." Once indwelt with the Spirit, He never leaves.

A seal speaks of ownership, authority, security. The Holy Spirit keeps us safe and secure from the devil, the flesh, and the world until we are "saved to sin no more"- "until the day of redemption."

John 14:16 another comforter? One of the same kind to come alongside to help. He will abide forever or take up permanent residence.

There is a difference between the O.T. anointing and the N.T. indwelling. He doesn't leave but He can be grieved.

VI. Natural grudges vs spiritual graces [vs. 31-32].

1. Grudges to be discarded [v. 31].

Bitterness- smoldering resentment that results in a brooding, grudging, forgiving spirit.

Wrath- a wild rage arising from selfishness.

Anger- a settled internal resentment.

Clamor- violent public outbursts.

Evil speaking- slander or injurious speech.

Malice- refers to evil in general or a vicious disposition.

2. Graces to be displayed [v. 32].

God forgave us when we did not deserve it, so we should forgive others when they don't deserve it.

"Be you kind" is translated by Wuest as "And be becoming kind." We can't achieve this total change of our inner disposition all at once, but provides the indwelling Holy Spirit for the process of transformation