

## Ephesians

### Lesson #17, Chapter 4:25-32

Ask God for clarity of thought and a soft heart as you read through all of Chapter 4.

1. Explain Paul's train of thought through Ephesians Chapter 4:1-25. Then after looking at verse 25, consider what the *therefore* is there for.
  
2. What are we commanded to do in verse 25?
  
3. Define *falsehood* (NKJV *lying* [Strong's #5579]).
  - a. Also record what you learn about lying after looking at just *some* of what the Bible has to say on the subject: Ex. 23:1; Ps. 5:6; 34:13; 40:4; 119:163; Prov. 13:5; Mark 7:21-23; Jn. 8:44; Col. 3:9; 1 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:8, 27.
  
4. Based on what you discovered above, what is the scope of a lie? When does it begin? What forms can it take? Can a lie only be in the spoken word?

"If it's not a whole truth, it's a half-truth and if it's a half-truth, it's a lie."

5. What reasons are given in verses 17-24, and in verse 25, for not lying anymore? Explain why *that second reason* from verse 25 should be a deterrent against lying.

6. Consider this statement by John MacArthur as he comments on this verse: “More than simply telling direct falsehoods, lying also includes exaggeration and adding fabrications to something that is true. Cheating, making foolish promises, betraying a confidence, and making false excuses are all forms of lying, with which Christians should have no part.”<sup>1</sup> Do any of these areas apply to you? How can you live more truthfully with your brothers and sisters in Christ?
  
7. What do verses 26-27 teach you about anger?
  
8. Look at Mark 3:1-5 and Jn. 2:13-16 for an example of anger that is not sinful. Why wasn't it sinful?

Aristotle said, “Anybody can become angry—that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not easy.”<sup>2</sup>

9. Most of the time the anger we feel is not righteous, godly anger, but the anger of our own sinful nature. What actions are implied in the admonition to not let the sun go down on your anger and not to give the devil an opportunity? (If you're not sure, look at Ps. 37:8; Gal. 5:22-26; 1 Jn. 1:9).
  
10. How does our sin give the devil an *opportunity*? See 2 Cor. 2:10-11; Eph. 6:11-13, 16; 1 Pet. 5:8-9.

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<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Eph 4:25). Nashville: Word Pub.

<sup>2</sup>MacDonald, W., & Farstad, A. (1997, c1995). *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments* (Eph 4:26). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

11. Just knowing that Satan is pleased when we sin through anger is enough to make us want to combat it. Look up the following verses and choose your favorite one. Begin memorizing it, if you haven't already, to help you continue to fight against the wrong kind of anger. Look up Prov. 12:16; 14:29; 15:1, 18; 16:32; 22:24-25; Gal. 5:20-21; James 1:19-20.
  
12. Instead of stealing, what are we supposed to do (verse 28)? Why?
  
13. Record what you learn from Prov. 28:13; Luke 19:8-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11 and 1 Pet. 4:15 about the changed life and purposes of the believer.
  
14. Not only are we to steal no longer, but we are to do the *opposite* of stealing. We are to labor and do good and share with others. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about labor, and why God wants us to learn to be diligent in this area: 1 Thess. 4:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:6-12; Titus 3:14.
  
15. Are you being faithful to labor for the reasons you just learned from the above verses and from Ephesians 4:28? How can you be more diligent in this area of the Christian life?
  
16. After confronting issues like honesty, anger, and stealing, Paul continues to pound away at our old self by dealing with our speech. What commands are we given in verse 29?

17. What kinds of qualifiers are given along with the commands in verse 29?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
18. Define *unwholesome* (NKJV *corrupt* [Strong's #4550]) and *edification* (ESV, NIV *building up* [Strong's #3619]).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What steps are needed in order to speak as we're told to do in verse 29? See Ps. 141:3; Prov. 15:23; 25:11; 24:26; Eph. 4:22-24.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
20. Why is speaking like verse 29 a challenge? See also James 3:2-8.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
21. What happens when we do not obey the commands given to us in verses 25-29? See verse 30.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
22. Verses 31-32 explain how not to grieve the Holy Spirit. What do you learn?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
23. Why are we to act that way (verse 32)? See also Matt. 18:21-35 which further illustrates this truth.

24. What impact has this truth had upon your dealings with other people? How are you different because Jesus Christ has forgiven you?

Our forgiving of others will not procure forgiveness for ourselves;  
but our not forgiving others proves that we ourselves are not forgiven. ~John Owen<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Owen, John. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 111.