

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Paul commands believers to imitate God and walk in love (5:1-2) by putting off the old self (v. 22) and putting on the new self (v. 24) in 5 vital areas.

- I. Lying: put away falsehood and put on truth (v. 25).
- II. Anger: put away sinful anger and put on defensive anger management (vs. 26-27).
- III. Greed: put away stealing and put on honest work (v. 28).
- IV. Speaking: put away corrupting talk and put on edifying, grace-filled, Holy Spirit-honoring speech (vs. 29-30).
- V. Hardheartedness: put away worldly vices and put on forgiveness (31-32).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 16, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Memory Passage: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (review 1:1-4:24)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 4:25-5:2.** To what does the “therefore” refer in v. 25?
- (b) What have you learned in Ephesians about speaking the truth, and how does this heighten your understanding of v. 25?
- (c) “Having put away falsehood” is the basis for the command to “speak the truth with (our) neighbor.” Can you speak the truth without putting away *all* falsehood? Does putting away falsehood automatically accomplish speaking the truth, or can you do the former without doing the latter? Which is more difficult for you to accomplish?
- (d) Who is your neighbor? In what way are you a member of your neighbor and your neighbor a member of you? Why is this intimacy consequential for speaking the truth (notice the “for” that begins the last phrase of v. 25)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2.** Does Paul command us to be angry in v. 26? Explain your answer.
- (b) Write down all the examples you can think of in which you can be angry but not sin. How often do you get angry in these ways, and how should you respond to this kind of anger? How often *do you sin* in your anger, and how should you respond?
- (c) When will you deal with your anger if you obey Paul’s command to “not let the sun go down” on it?
- (d) In what ways does harboring your anger until after the sun goes down give an “opportunity to the devil?”

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2.** Before you dismiss v. 28 as not concerning you, how often are you involved in stealing? Consider music you have on your devices that you did not pay for, office supplies you have taken from your employer, time spent surfing on the internet when you are on the clock at work, not giving to your local church (cf. Malachi 3:8-10), etc.
- (b) What is the motivation for the former thief to work hard at labor (v. 28c)?
- (c) What is “corrupting talk” (v. 29) and how often are you involved in this kind of talk?
- (d) How will heading the commands to only speak “such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (1) change the way you speak, (2) improve your relationships with others, (3) maintain unity in the body, (4) change the way you think of others, and (5) change the way others think of you?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2.** What does it mean to “grieve the Holy Spirit?” How do you avoid doing this?
- (b) Explain each of the activities you are to “put off” in v. 31. Which of these are the most struggle for you? How will you endeavor to be faithful in putting these behaviors off? How might you enlist the help of other believers in this endeavor?
- (c) Explain each of the “be” activities in which you are to be engaged (v. 32). Which of these are the most struggle for you? How does the phrase “just as God in Christ forgave you” empower you to implement these activities in the coming weeks?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2.** To what does “therefore” (5:1) refer, and how does it connect what follows to what precedes?
- (b) Explain in detail what Christ has done for you (5:2).
- (c) Ponder in prayer what you wrote in answer to question (b). Now go back through 4:25-5:2 and write down how Christ’s love for you (5:2) must motivate your obedience to each of the commands listed in these verses. Be specific, noting how Christ’s loving sacrifice for you fuels specific obedience to each one. Note how disobedience to these commands seems petty in light of the sacrifice of Christ given on your behalf. Note how gloriously your behavior will reflect His glory as you obey each of these commands and unity is maintained in the body, as well as all of your relationships.

DATE: July 16, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Walking in Love