

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 4:25-32]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your time with the Lord, what is He teaching you?
- When you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that convicted you personally or stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read our primary text. Paul begins verse 25 with the word "therefore." What message did he convey in the previous block of text?

Paul tells these Ephesian believers of who they are in Christ. What used to mark their old lives is gone, and now they are marked with new life in Christ. They are to live in their new status before God; righteous.

2. Paul lists the negative and then the positive actions of someone before and after Christ. What are they? Which of these terms do you think a friend or a spouse would use to describe you? [Just a moment of honest reflection]

Falsehood – Truth

Steal – Honest Work

Corrupting Talk – Graceful Speech

Bitterness/Wrath/Anger/Clamor/Slander – Kindness/Tenderhearted/Forgiving

[Note: If someone is truly dealing with one or more of these actions, they need to go to God's word in prayer and begin reading specifically what God says about these things. Studying your weakness is invaluable when taking steps to kill that sin.]

3. Verse 26 speaks of anger. What is the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger? Give examples. How urgent should we be in dealing with our anger?

Examples:

Righteous Anger – a burning hatred toward our own sin

Unrighteous Anger – carrying anger towards a friend, child, spouse

Paul urges believers to extinguish anger quickly, not allowing bitterness to take root in the heart. Apologizing and forgiving takes practice – we must learn how to "swallow" pride and begin practicing what God has provided for healing the human heart.

4. Corrupt talk often hides in Christian circles but rears its ugly head in every other facet of life. What does Paul say about this kind of speech?

Paul describes in these passages that corrupt talk comes from a corrupt heart. Lying, abusive language, vulgar references, vicious unkind words, gossip, and slander has no place in the mouth of a Christian. To further emphasize the significance of these unrighteous acts, he then adds, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.” This statement should give us pause the next time we open our mouths to expel unwholesome speech.

5. Considering this text, how does personal change happen in the life of an individual?

They become a new creation. By the power of the Holy Spirit and through God’s revealed word, a believer’s heart and mind is renewed into the likeness of Christ.

6. At its very essence, why do you think God wants us to live this way?

Because we are made in His likeness, created to represent Him on earth.

“You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.” – Lev. 20:26

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.

Commentary Reference:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary

- Merida, Tony. *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*. B&H Publishing Group; Nashville, Tennessee, 2014.