



## **“A Different Talk”**

*The Church’s Conduct*

Ephesians 4:25-32, cp. Colossians 3:8-17

*Our words need to be :*

### **I. Real-** “Wherefore putting away lying” (vs. 25-28)

*Choosing to be :*

- A. Genuine** – “speak every man truth”
- B. Gentle** – “Neither give place to the devil”
- C. Generous** – “steal no more...give to him that needeth”

### **II. Regulated-** “let no corrupt communication proceed”(vs. 29-30)

*Choosing words that are:*

- A. Useful** – “good to the use of edifying”
- B. Uplifting** - “that it...minister grace to the hearers”
- C. Unique** - “grieve not the holy Spirit of God”

### **III. Relational** -“Let all ...evil speaking be put away” (vs. 31-32)

*Choosing to become :*

- A. Easy** – “be ye kind one to another”
- B. Engaged** – “tenderhearted”
- C. Exceptional** – “forgiving...even as God”

## Sentence Sermon:

**“The Church is people who have put away deceit and have become Spirit directed communicators.”**

## Additional Verses

### *Lying*

- **John 8:44**
- **Revelation 22:15**
- **I John 2:21**
- **Acts 5:1-11**
- **Genesis 3:1**

### *Anger*

- **Psalm 4:5; 97:10**
- **Proverbs 15:1; 29:11**
- **Matthew 5:22**
- **James 1:19-20**
- **Colossians 3:8**

## Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What is a good description of how other Gentiles talk? How does this passage describe it?
- 2. How can a believer be angry but not sin?
- 3. Why is lying and stealing mentioned together?
- 4. Who is can be corrupted by our words?
- 5. How does not remaining angry give opportunity to the devil?
- 6. What word could sum up verse 32 (cp. Colossians 3:14)?

# INTRO:

## Exegesis:

### V. 25

- Wherefore = Based on walking worthy of the vocation you were called and putting on the new man
- Putting away = to put on the new man in verse 24, we must take off the old man
- Lying = who lies?
  - I much prefer the answer a man gave to his wife when she asked: “Do I look fat?” He replied: “Do I look stupid?”
  - where the woman comes into the kitchen and asks her husband: “Do you think this dress makes me look fat?”  
It seems to put you in a place where the right thing would be to lie?  
Better to answer : The dress doesn’t do you justice.
  - **The book The Day Americans Told the Truth says that 91 percent of those surveyed lie routinely about matters they consider trivial, and 36 percent lie about important matters; 86 percent lie regularly to parents, 75 percent to friends, 73 percent to siblings, and 69 percent to spouses**
- Truth with his neighbor = who is your neighbor
  - Who ever you meet (Good Samaritan)
  - Especially fellow believers

- We are members one of another = we help and hurt each other’s reputation

### V. 26

- Be angry = ...it does not say be not angry....WHY? We are still human and have an emotional response to everything...but
- Sin not = Why does it say this?? Because a lot of our sinning comes from our response to things that make me angry.
- Let not the sun go down upon your wrath = wrath = **“angry mood or violent irritation expressed by hiding oneself, flaming looks, harmful words, or inconsiderate actions”**
- Easy interpretation = don’t hold on to anger very long...This is a warning to your health...ignore it at your own peril.
  - **HOW** can we have a forgiving Spirit?
    - Don’t be Easily Offended.
    - Remember it one of the divine attributes we can have. Forgiveness is a hallmark of God’s work in human beings.

### V. 27

- Neither = Oh, Yes, there is one more thing about this anger thingy....

- Give place to the devil = allow the devil a foothold in your life (an opportunity)
  - Like an old stray cat or
  - Examples in OT that gave opportunity to the devil:
    - Eve
    - Lot
    - Achan
    - Samson
    - King Saul
    - King David – staying behind his army...
  - When we remain angry, we give opportunity to the devil to:
    - Destroy your reputation
    - Destroy your family
      - Children
      - Spouse = cause them to consider the devil's temptation to wander away
  - The CHALLENGE
    - A. Be sober. The war is serious. True Christians cannot relax and be overcome with pleasure. It is life or death.
    - B. Be vigilant. Stay focused on the conflict. Be sensitive. Be critical. Better safe than sorry.

- C. Resist him. He will flee. There are easier victims for him. He hates reminders of his defeat.

#### V. 28

- Let him that stole steal no more = stopping an action in progress....but who steals? The real question is who is sensitive to taking things that do not belong to them? Respond by confessing and abandoning the practice.
- But let him labour = give him work to do
- Working with his hands = stay busy not idle
- The thing which is good = whatever the job is ...it should be honest work...money made ethically, lawfully, and overall “good”
- That he may have to give = we are to work in order to be able to give not to hoard or cease laboring.

#### V. 29

- Let no corrupt communication = “foul, rank, putrid, rotten, worthless, disgusting”
- Proceed out of your mouth = Don't be the origin of filth. You should not be quoted or credited with dirty jokes, lies, scandal, hurtful comments, gossip, slander, or anything that is not God honoring.
- But that which is good to the use of edifying = be in someone's footnotes or citations for some great uplifting saying or concept or comment.

- That it may minister grace to the hearers = “to confer favor, pleasure, or profit” ...not just to the person you say it to but to everyone that it will be repeated to in ad finitem. How many times do you think you are repeated? More than you would imagine...especially by family, friends, and coworkers.

#### V. 30

- And = This is in addition to previous statements about corrupt communication
- Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God = any question? About whether this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the godhead
- Whereby ye are sealed = **Guaranteed “YEAH !!!”**
  - The Holy Spirit’s sealing of believers confirms the payment of the price for our sin...He is as it were the receipt of our redemption.
    - **Walmart Receipt check**
    - **Chucky Cheese – stamp/Sticker**
- Unto the day of redemption = when we see Christ and receive a new sinfree body.

#### V. 31

- Let all ...be put away from you = Take these off of you like removing a garment
  - **B**itterness = “denoting a fretted and irritable state of mind that keeps a man in a perpetual animosity; that inclines him to harsh and

uncharitable opinions of men and things; that makes him sour, crabby, and repulsive in his general demeanor...it brings a scowl over his face and infuses the words of his tongue with venom.

- Wrath – more subtle and deep flowing anger
- Anger – temporary excitement or passion (Shows itself in two ways:)
  - Clamour - outcry...shouting...the sound of strife
  - Evil speaking = slander, speaking evil of someone
    - With all malice = “badness, bad heartedness”  
don’t wish other’s harm = this speaks to intent rather than action or words as above list.  
This is followed by the opposite in verse 32...



#### V. 32

- **A**nd be ye = “And become ...”
- Kind one to another = “easy on yourselves” Gracious. (literally ...useful, worthy, good, benevolent)
- Tenderhearted = “compassionate, to have healthy bowels” – example: Fay Husimann
- Forgiving one another = “to exercise grace in freely forgiving”

- Even as God ...has forgiven you = to provide undeserved help to someone unworthy.
  - For Christ's sake = on Christ's account.

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