

Weapon of Alass Destruction— or Construction

Life in Christ: Wealth, Walk, Warfare (Ephesians) – Part 107

Ephesians 4:29-30

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²⁰But as for you, you did not learn Christ like that, ²¹ assuming that *it is* Him you heard, and *it is* in Him you were taught, since truth is in Jesus: ²² for you to take off, with respect to *your* former behavior, the old man, who was being corrupted in accord with desires *coming* from deceit, ²³ and to be made new in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and to put on the new man, who was created in accord with God, in righteousness and piety *coming* from the truth.

²⁵ Wherefore, having taken off falsehood, “speak truth, each with his neighbor,” because we are members of one another.

[Ephesians 4:20-30 DJP]

²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”; let not the sun set upon your angry mood, ²⁷ nor give room for the Devil.

²⁸ He who steals, let him steal no more, but instead let him labor, working with his own hands what is good, that he might have *something* to impart to the one having need.

²⁹ Every foul¹ word² — do not let it go out of your mouth; but *instead*, whatever is good for building up what is needed,³ that it might give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not sadden the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed until the day of redemption.

Introduction:

I. What Needs to Stop: Gr_____ous Verbal _____truction (v. 29a)

A. The Weapon Out_____ed

1. Generally: our _____

- a. Its power:
Proverbs 18:21
James 3:1-10

- b. How it reveals _____
James 1:26
Matthew 12:34–35

- c. How it can affect _____ (Proverbs 6:24ff.; 10:14; 11:9, 11; 15:4; 16:28; 26:18-20, 28)

2. Specifically: *Every foul word*

- a. Definition of *sapros* (*foul*)
 - i. Uses outside the NT

¹ Or *worthless, corrupt, harmful*.

² Or *communication*; mng ranges from single word to speech, communication, message.

³ Literally *for building up* [or *edification*] *of the need*.

- ii. NT uses
 - Matthew 7:17–18
 - Matthew 12:33
 - Matthew 13:48
 - Luke 6:4

b. Meaning:

c. Application

B. The Action Out _____ ed

1. What it is: *do not let it go out of your mouth*
2. What to do

II. What Needs to Proliferate: Gracious Verbal Construction (v. 29b)

A. Its Character: *whatever is good for building up what is needed*
Proverbs 10:11, 21, 31; 11:11; 15:4a, 7)

B. Its Gift: *that it might give grace to those who hear*

1. Grace here is
 - 1 Corinthians 15:10
 - Ephesians 3:2, 7-8; 4:7

2. Here's the amazing thing:

III. Why: the Indwelling Holy Spirit (v. 30)

A. What We Learn About the _____

B. What We Learn About _____