

DIFFERENT BEHAVIOR

Ephesians 4:25-32

I. **HONESTY** (25; Ps 15; 1 Pet 3:10)

A. **Put Away Falsehood** (Jn 8:44; 2 Tim 4:4; Ps 5:9; 101:7; Col 3:9)

1. **God never lies.** (Num 23:19; Tit 1:2; Heb 6:18; Jn 14:6; 1 Pet 2:22; 15:26; 17:17)—

a. **God hates dishonesty.** (Prov 20:10; 12:22; Rev 21:18, 27)

b. **Honesty is required for fellowship with God.** (Ps 15:1-2; 32:5; 36:2; 51:3-6; 101:7; 1 Jn 1:5-10)—*repentance impossible without it*

2. **The Devil is the Father of Lies.** (Gen 3:13; Jn 8:44; 2 Cor 11:14; 2 Th 2:9-12)

a. **Deception is his nature.**

b. **Don't give the devil a voice!**

B. **Speak Truth** (Eph 4:15; 1 Cor 13:6; Rev 14:5)—live it, practice it

1. **Active, not passive.** Take *initiative, speak up!*

2. **Applies to more than conversation.** Complete honesty of life

C. **Members of One Another** (Lev 19:17; Jer 9:5, 8; Mat 18:15; Lk 17:3)

1. **Deep relationships require honesty.** The gospel frees us to be real.

2. **Dishonesty undermines trust.**

3. **Truth is necessary for growth to maturity.** (Prov 27:6)

II. **ANGER** (26-27; Ps 4:4;)

A. **Righteous Anger** (Ps 106; Ps 119:53; 1 Sam 11:6; Mk 3:5; Jn 2:17/Ps 69:9)—God expresses anger, must be righteous application.

1. **At Dishonor of God's Name** (Ps 69:9/Jn 2:17; 1 Sam 17:45-47)—
 2. **At Evil and Injustice** (Gen 6:5-6, 11; Ps 119:53; 2 Sam 12:5-7)—
 3. **Empowers To Defend and Protect** (1 Sam 11:6)—function of love
—>Do *NOT* be complacent in the face of evil, injustice, or abuse!
- B. Sinful Anger** (Ps 37:8; Mat 5:21-22)—powerful, destructive
1. **Without just cause** (Gen 4:3-7; 1 Sam 17:28; Mat 5:21-22)—*jealousy*
 2. **Allowing it to fester** (26b; Mat 5:21-22; Prov 22:24; 29:22)—it spawns other sins...
 3. **Self-righteous** (Jon 4:1-4, 10-11; Lk 9:54-55; Jam 1:20)—pride, without love
- C. Opportunity for the Devil** (27; Eph 6:11)—simmering, unacknowledged anger—"Foothold"
1. **To Undermine Unity of the Church** (Hos 10:4; Heb 12:14-15)
...
 2. **To Destroy the Witness of the Church** (Eph 3:10; Jn 13:35; 1 Cor 6:6)—gospel of peace, reconciliation & unity in Christ
 3. **To Disrupt your Relationship with God** (1 Cor 3:17)—
 4. **To Make You Ugly!**
- D. THIS IS A CALL TO:**
1. **Self-Awareness**—the effect you have on other people
 2. **Self-Examination**—why angry, is it justified, what should I do about it
 3. **Self-Control**—mastering your emotion rather than being mastered by it, gentleness with strength because of love