

Different Behavior Pt. 2

Ephesians 4:28-32

I. STUFF (28)—from stealing to sharing**A. Private Property Is Biblical.** (Ex 20:15, 17; Deut 8:17-18; 1 Sam 2:7; Jud 11:24; Ecc 5:19 & 6:2; 1 Chr 29:12)**B. Stop Stealing.—**

By force or by fraud...

1. It is selfish. (Mat 7:12 & 22:39)—*failure to love neighbor as self***a. laziness**—(1 Thes 5:14; 2 Thes 3:11)**b. covetousness****2. It is godless.** (Ps 115:4; 135:15; Jer 2:27-28)—does not trust God, is *idolatrous***a. Distrusts God's ability to provide.** (Ps 25:1-3; 52:7; Pro 6:30-31; Isa 57:11; Mat 6:11, 25-34)—does't factor God in**b. Discontent with God's provision.** (2 Sam 12:8-9; 1 Tim 3:8 & 6:6-10; 1 Pet 5:2)—**C. Instead Start:****1. Working** (Gen 2:15; 1 Thes 4:11-12; 2 Thes 3:6-12;)—**a. Work is a good thing.** (Gen 2:15)—created for this**b. Idleness promotes vice.** (2 Thes 3:11)**c. Manual labor is not demeaning!** (2 Thes 3:7-8)**d. Christian work must be honest labor.****2. Sharing** (Act 20:35; 2 Cor 8:9 & 9:7; 1 Tim 6:17-18)**a. Personal Responsibility for charity****b. Personal Desire to help others****c. New Attitude toward God and neighbor****3. Example of Christ** (Eph 4:8; 2 Cor 8:9;)**II. SPEECH (29-31; Mat 12:34; 15:11, 18; Lk 6:45)—Harmful to Helpful****A. Ungodly Talk ()—corrupt, unwholesome—*rotten trees or fruit*****1. Destructive** (Ps 15:3; Prov 10:6-7; 12:18; Rom 3:13-14; Jam 3:8-12)**a. Clamor**—loud uproar, yelling, screaming in rage, violent threats**b. Slander**—(Ps 15:3) ranting, badmouthing, abusive criticism**2. Inappropriate** (Eph 5:4)**a. Obscenity** (Eph 5:4; Mat 5:28; Rom 12:10a)**b. Disrespect** (Rom 12:10b & 13:7;)**c. Grumbling** (Eph 5:4b; Num 14:27; 1 Cor 10:8-11; Phil 2:14-15)

3. **Grieves the Holy Spirit** (30; Gen 6:3; Ps 66:18;)
 - a. **The Holy Spirit is a Person**, not some impersonal force.
 - b. **Disunity is the work of the Devil.** (Gal 5:19-24)
 - c. **Don't work against the Holy Spirit.** (Ps 51:11; 1 Cor 3:17)

B. Christian Speech (Eph 4:15, 25; Isa 50:4; Col 4:6)—

1. **Builds Up** (1 Cor 8:1; 10:23; 13:1-5; 14:12)—constructive, beneficial, edifying
 - a. **Motivated by love, not pride**
 - b. **Focused on the other, not self**
 - c. **Helps the other rise and advance**
2. **Fits the Occasion** (Col 4:5-6; 1 Tim 5:1-2; 1 Pet 3:15;)
 - a. **Consider the relationship.**—age, sex, believer or unbeliever
 - b. **Consider the person.**—their background, beliefs, feelings
 - c. **Consider the time and place.** (Ecc 3:1-8)
 - d. **Be gracious.**—respectful, kind, considerate
3. **Gives Grace** ()—benefits, helps

III. DISPOSITION (31-32)—temperament, character, inclination toward others

A. Ungodly Disposition (31)—In keeping with the old, sinful nature

1. **Unresolved Anger**—characteristic of the unregenerate nature
 - a. **Bitterness**—inward resentment
 - b. **Wrath**—vindictive, relentless, unforgiving; blind rage
 - c. **Anger**—strong annoyance or displeasure resulting in hostility
2. **Verbal Attacks**—venting sinful anger, going scorched-earth
3. **Malice** ()—rooted anger that prompts a person to plot and commit harm to someone; ***anger hardened into hatred***

B. Christian Disposition (32)— love for neighbor

1. **Kind**—considerate, friendly; motivated by love for others
2. **Tender hearted**—able to feel sympathy, pity or compassion
3. **Forgiving**—merciful, willing to forgive
4. **Christlike**—as Jesus taught and modeled by example
 - a. **Jesus' teaching** (Mat 6:12, 14-15; 18:22, 35 ; Mk 11:25; Lk 17:3-4;).
 - b. **Jesus' example** (Lk 23:34; 1 Pet 2:23).
5. **Self-aware** (Mat 18:32-33; Lk 7:41-47)—how much we have been forgiven!