

Be Different
Ephesians 4:25-32

[Eph 4:25-32 ESV] 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

I. Intro

- A. Empowered actions are truly supernatural, and that will be evident as we are challenged today.
- B. Remember, we have what it takes, because of the Holy Spirit.
- C. We will never have what it takes without the Holy Spirit.

II. Text

- A. Verse 25: recap last week
- B. Verse 26: Anger is not a sin, how you respond in anger is what gets you.
- C. Verse 27: don't give the devil any place to latch on to your life
- D. Verse 28: Life change
- E. Verse 29:
 - 1. No corrupt talk, only talk that builds up.
 - 2. (As fits the occasion): We encourage differently at times
- F. Verse 30:
 - 1. Do not grieve the Spirit
 - 2. You are sealed with the Spirit...unbreakable
- G. Verse 31: Put away stuff that needs not be a part of your life
- H. Verse 32:
 - 1. Be KIND, TENDER HEARTED, FORGIVING
 - 2. Why?: Because you are forgiven!

III. Points

- A. Be Careful with your Flesh
 - 1. Anger:
 - a) All of us have anger issues, some of us have anger problems.
 - b) There are things that we should be angry about, many of those things are in our own life, how we respond in either GODLY or SINFUL
 - 2. Honest work:
 - a) Once you have experienced the joy of an honest days work, you see the value in it.
 - b) If you have experienced the slippery slope of getting something for nothing, its hard to get out of that rut.
 - 3. Remember the natural response of the flesh is very seldom honoring to the Lord, therefore, needs to be trained in righteousness.
 - 4. When dealing with your natural desires:
 - a) Realize that the heart is deceitfully wicked.
 - b) Realize that we are to die to self and live for Christ.
 - c) Realize we were bought with a price, and that puts us into a different category: Ambassadors for Christ!
 - 5. So, if something angers you:
 - a) Seek the Lord, don't react in the flesh

- b) Honor the Lord, react they way that reminds people of Jesus.
 - c) Deny yourself, Live for Christ!
 - 6. The root of anger, many times, is pride:
 - a) [Jas 4:10 ESV] 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
 - b) [Psa 94:22 ESV] 22 But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.
- B. Be Careful with your Tongue
 - 1. David laments in Psalm 116:
 - 2. [Psa 116:10-11 ESV] 10 I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted"; 11 I said in my alarm, "All mankind are liars."
 - 3. That which comes from your mouth had better be building up, rather than tearing down.
 - 4. The heart behind the message is what seasons the words.
 - 5. Your tongue and your temper are so closely related it is hard to separate them many times.
 - 6. Use your speech to make much of Jesus, to speak the truth in Love, to correct and to build others up.
 - 7. Anything else...is wrong.
 - 8. The Tongue: [Jas 3:1-12 ESV] 1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.
- C. Be Careful with your Response
 - 1. Be kind...for real
 - 2. Not just kind because you are supposed to, but kind because of Jesus!
 - 3. Forgive one another, because God forgave you!
 - 4. There is no greater reminder about the need to forgive other, than a reminder that you have been forgiven.
 - 5. There is an old saying:
 - a) Hurt people hurt people.
 - b) I added: blessed people bless people.
 - c) Now I add: Forgiven people forgive people.
 - 6. Mercy:
 - a) compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.
 - b) [Jas 2:13 ESV] 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
 - c) One of the greatest experiences in the life of a believer is receiving mercy!
 - d) Another equally amazing experience...delivering mercy!

IV. Close

- A. Don't give the devil a foothold in your life, family, mind, work, or anywhere!
- B. [Psa 100:1-5 ESV] 1 A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! 3 Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.