

Saint Pauls Cathedral, Melbourne
Bible Study, Sunday 13th December 2020
THE EPISTLE OF EPHESIANS

THE MESSAGE (4:25-32)

²⁵ What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretence. Tell your neighbour the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

²⁶⁻²⁷ Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

²⁸ Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work.

²⁹ Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

³⁰ Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

³¹⁻³² Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

NRSV (4:25-32)

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil.

²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Rules for the New Life

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you

List the commands given (negative and positive)

1. _____ (25)
2. _____ (26-27)
3. _____ (28)
4. _____ (29)
5. _____ (30)
6. _____ (31)
7. _____ (32)

- Are there cases where a believer permitted to lie in verse 25?
- How about white lies?
- Why does the Bible tell us we should be angry in verse 26?
- In what cases should we be angry?
- Why should we not let the sun go down on our anger?
- What does this tell us about how to solve problems in relationships?
- What Christian virtue is espoused in verse 28?
- How can we know what word is good for edification according to the need of the moment?
- How can we keep evil talk from leaving our lips in verse 29? What kinds of words give grace and edify? Give some examples.
- What does verse 30 have to do with the rest of this passage?
- How do we practice verses 31-32?