

The New Life – Ephesians 4:25-5:2

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. ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Our new life in Christ is seen primarily in how we relate to others - especially our brothers and sisters in the church. In 4:25-30, Paul goes through four specific ways we relate to each other and shows how and why they shift because of who we are in Jesus.

- 1) (v25) **Why does the fact that we are joined together in one body lead us to speak truth to each other? Why is falsehood appealing? How can we live more truthfully with each other?**
- 2) (v26-27) **Why is our anger often sinful? How does our sinful anger make space for the devil within our church? How does the truth of the gospel help us to deal with our anger?**
- 3) (v28) **What can “stealing” look like beyond just taking someone’s literal goods? How does this gospel reshape how we work and engage with each other?**
- 4) (v29-30) **What is it about our speech that grieves the Holy Spirit? What are some forms of “corrupting” talk you are prone to? How can we speak in ways that build up instead?**

We would all love to have others treat us the way that Paul described, but we also have to come to grips with often we and those around us fall short of this. This is part of the living as life as sinner/saints this side of glory. The church here is not a perfect community, it is a resilient one because it has a way to deal with sin and failure that is found nowhere else.

- 5) **How does the finished work of Jesus free us to run imperfectly pursuing these could thing without being crushed by our failures?**
- 6) **We are called to relate to others, not in the way they deserve, but in the way that God relates to us because of Jesus. What does this mean for us, particularly as we encounter each other’s needs, weaknesses, and failures?**

Prayer:

- Let’s pray for God to grow us into a church that is marked by these things.
- What can we praise God for?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- What cares or burdens can we help carry?