

Connected: My Life in the Church
Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson



Today's Scripture

Ephesians 4:25-32 NIV

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.



Soul Food

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: Eph. 4:17-32 Instruction for Christian living.

Mon: Zechariah 8:16 These are the things you are to do...

Tue: Romans 12:3-15 Humble service in the body of Christ.

Wed: Matthew 5:21-26 Deal with anger before worship.

Thurs: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 Forgiveness stops the schemes of Satan.

Friday: Galatians 6:7-10 Let us do good – especially to believers.

Saturday: Matthew 12:36-37 Your words are important.

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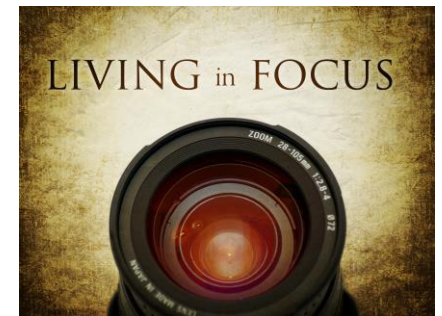
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Sermon Notes



Big Idea: Our words matter.

Trinity

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
James 1:22 (NIV)
Your Life in Light of the Word

To become a mature, spiritually reproducing follower of Jesus we have to interact with the Bible. These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the Word of God.



As a follower of Jesus, we are continually asked to examine our life and make sure it is in agreement with the Bible. How do you go about setting up regular times of biblical evaluation of your life?

If you do not evaluate your life in light of the Bible, why not? What benefits do you get from not putting biblical truth into personal practice?

What are some of the benefits of personal biblical evaluation? How could this benefit your relationship with others, God and yourself?

In Eph. 4:26 we have the command to deal with anger: *in your anger do not sin*. The following principles for dealing with anger come from this text.

- 1) Do not brood over an incident. (Do not let it go unchecked.)
- 2) Speak truthfully & seek truth. (Anger is often built on lies.)
- 3) Address the cause of anger immediately, seek forgiveness and reconciliation quickly and so preserve the health of the church.
- 4) Practice generosity.
- 5) Be intentionally kind and compassionate.

How can these principles help us biblically deal with anger?

Praying God's Word ~ Ephesians 4:25-32

- Thank God For the direction the Bible gives us for living together as a local church.
- Ask God to help you speak truthfully.
- Ask God for insight to deal biblically with anger.
- Ask God for honest work so you can help others. (This is the practice of generosity.)
- Ask God that others may benefit from your talk.
- Ask God to help you forgive those who have hurt you.



Discuss: *To savor anger and allow it to fester puts the church in the very position the devil favors.* (Ephesians: William W. Klein, professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary)

Sam Storms, a pastor in Oklahoma, offers four helpful questions to ask before talking.

- 1) What is my motive for speaking?
What is my reason for responding to this person?
What do I hope to accomplish by opening my mouth?
- 2) What impact will my words have on this person?
Will it tend to tear them down or build them up?
- 3) What impact would my words have on me if the situation were reversed?
- 4) What would Jesus say?

How would your speech change if you put these questions into practice in your life?