

EPHESIANS

4 : 25 - 32

DIFFERENT

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(EPHESIANS 4:25-32; PART ONE)

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they not only brought *sin into the world*, but they also managed to bring *sin inside of us!* The result is, when we're born, we enter this life with what the Bible calls a *sin nature*. It is also referred to as the "old you" or the "old self." Sin, and this sin nature, is what has killed our souls by separating us from God relationally (Isaiah 59:2). The fantastic news is that by surrendering your life to the Lord Jesus Christ as your God and Savior, the "old you" is killed off and a "new you" is born (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is a complete and total trade-off! Your sinful nature hits the road, and a new nature, sent from God, makes your heart home (2 Peter 1:4). Your soul becomes alive, and you get connected to God relationally. You become a new person that approaches life from God's perfectly beautiful vantage point. It is *higher level living*. Wow, this is miraculous! So then, how does this new life operate? I mean, *what does the new you do differently?* Paul gives us a bunch of practical examples, in Ephesians 4:25-32, to show us how it works. This is a great kind of ... DIFFERENT!

OUR TALK

(v. 25)

1. Don't be telling people ...
2. Be someone people can ...
3. Protect the reputation of ...

OUR TEMPER

(vv. 26-27)

1. Realize that some anger can be ...

2. Anger needs to be recognized and ...

3. Satan will use prolonged anger to ...

(James 1:20) Anger becomes a ...

(1 Corinthians 10:31) Anger is the ...

(Ephesians 6:12) Anger leads me to want to ...

(Proverbs 29:11) Anger boils over and makes ...

(Hebrews 12:15) Anger turns into a ...

(James 1:2-4) Anger makes you blind to ...

(Romans 12:19-21) Anger gets in the way of ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-25 from two translations. I'd suggest the NASB and the NLT.

2. Quick review and tie-in to last week's study of Ephesians 4:17-24: The New Testament Epistles talk a lot about the old you ... the sinful nature you ... the old self ... as being dead and gone. The Epistles make an even bigger thing about ... the new you ... the Divine nature you ... the new self. In fact, you're identified as a whole new creation. Why is it vitally important (to pretty much everything in your life) to see yourself the way God has saved you to be rather than the way you used to be?

3. Let's talk about our *talk*, and the impact being the "new you" has upon what we say. How prevalent do you believe lying is in our culture today? What are some of the most commonplace ways we as Christians are tempted to lie? Why must we seek to always be truth tellers who communicate in love? What are the blessings of telling the truth?

4. Let's talk about our temper. When is it acceptable to be angry? Why is it smart to deal with anger quickly, rather than let it fester? Can you share some personal experiences of how holding onto anger has hurt you and of how letting go of anger has blessed you and set you free?

5. Satan will use our anger against us ... no doubt about it. Pastor John shared seven specific ways that the devil hurts us with our own anger. Of those seven strategies that Satan uses, which one most caught your attention and why? Describe what it means to you that Jesus can free us from our own anger and that He has freed us from God's wrath forever!