



DIFFERENT AGAIN

(EPHESIANS 4:25-32; PART TWO)

At the exact moment you surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ as your God and Savior, the Holy Spirit regenerates and renews you (Titus 3:5) into an inwardly new creation of God (2 Corinthians 5:17). You're transformed into a wonderfully different person at the very core of your being. The Bible describes this miracle as the death of the "old self" (Ephesians 4:22) and the birth of the "new self" (Ephesians 4:23-24). This new you enters into an eternal relationship of love and loyalty with Jesus, learning to live according to God's wise and gracious guidance. But this fantastic remake raises a very big question: How does becoming new on the inside change how we live on the outside? Ephesians 4:25-32 provides six everyday examples of how God leads our new self to live completely the opposite of our old self. These specific illustrations involve our TALK, TEMPER, TRADE, TONGUE, TEACHER, and TEMPERAMENT. Last Sunday we looked at talk and temper. This Sunday we'll look at trade and tongue. Today is all about being different again.

YOUR TRADE

(v. 28)

1. We refuse to ...
2. We choose to be ...
3. We only opt for ...
4. We work to ...

4 WORDS FOR YOUR WORK

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

YOUR TONGUE

(v. 28)

1. We give up on the ...
2. We communicate to ...
3. We speak into the situation ...

3 WORDS FOR YOUR LANGUAGE

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

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 over the full passage, Ephesians 4:25-32, in two versions. I'd suggest the NLT and the NASB. The whole section is about the death of the "old self" and the birth of the "new self." How does the "old self" die and when is the "new self" born? What is the difference between the two?
2. Regarding one's TRADE, Ephesians 4:28 indicates that everybody steals in some form or fashion. What are some of the common ways you've seen theft in our culture? Especially as believers, how and why do we stop stealing from our society and from our God?
3. Read aloud 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11 and 1 Timothy 5:8. Does this direction from Paul sound cross-current to today's culture? How do we apply these verses in today's world of joblessness and homelessness? How do we help the legitimately poor and needy without enabling the people Paul is warning us about?
4. What are your thoughts about asking God to give you more "gain" so you can practice more "give?" If you don't have a lot of gain at the moment, should you still be giving?
5. Pastor John reminded us that as a military guy, a blue-collar dude, and a politician, King David would have been sorely tempted to swear up a blue streak. Read aloud David's prayer for his language in Psalm 141:3. Foul language is a huge issue in our country. Why is it important that Christians not speak that way?
6. What is God personally challenging you to do differently in terms of your TRADE and your TONGUE as a result of being a new man or a new woman in Christ?