

I) V25-32 INTRO: Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his

II) When somebody says that they are believers, how are others to know if they truly are?

What evidence do they have that establishes that their claim is true?

III) John gives us one of the ways that we can know whether someone is really saved

The evidence will be found in the way that that person lives

1 Jn 2:3-6 Now **by this** we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments**. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps **His word**, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

IV) The reason a believer keeps his commands and words is because they are **born again**

Evidence of being regenerated is demonstrated by the way that they now live

V) I mentioned that the bible speaks concerning salvation as **a complete transformation**

2 Co 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold **all things** have become new

VI) This **transformed** life is the result of God giving us a new heart and a new spirit

Ezek 36:26 I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

VII) Our old, sinful nature has been crucified with Jesus and we now have a new nature

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

VIII) Our old nature has been put to death, and by faith we have a new nature

Though there are still sinful desires we deal with, we now identify as

new creations

IX) As believers we have laid aside the old man and our former life and put on the new man

This new way of life is because we have come to Jesus and have been forgiven

The truth has set us free and has changed our way of thinking and our way of life

X) This is what Paul is writing about: he is writing about the truth that sets us free

XI) The truth that sets free is not simply ideas but is demonstrable through actions

Jas 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

I) Paul had just written to be renewed in the spirit of our mind and to put on the new man

This new man is created, according to God, in true righteousness and holiness (V23-24)

According to God is literally, to be *like God*

II) Years ago, a member of our study told me that man is **physically created** in God's image

Gen 1:27 So God created mankind **in His own image**, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.

III) One TV evangelist said: God is: very much like you and me ... having a body, complete with eyes, and eyelids, ears, nostrils, a mouth, hands and fingers, and feet.

He went on to say: God...stands somewhere around 6'2", 6'3", and weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of a couple hundred pounds, little better.

IV) This teaching is actually Mormon doctrine

Stephen E. Robinson, professor of ancient scripture at BYU, charged that "**the Latter-day Saint doctrine of God** is used...by this particular TV preacher

V) Is this what Paul is saying: that man is created in God's physical image
No, Paul is not saying that God has physical parts

VI) Scripture uses metaphors when revealing things of God

Eyes: 2 Chron 16:9 **The eyes** of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth

Hand: Ac 7:50 Was it not **My hand** which made all these things

Mouth: Mt 4:4 Man lives by every word the comes from **the mouth** of God

Feet: Habakkuk 3:6 Before Him went the pestilence and burning coals went forth at **His feet**

Heart: Ac 13:22 I have found David a man after **My own heart**

VII) I tried to explain to the young woman that God is described using metaphors

Heb 12:29 For our God is a **consuming fire**

Mt 23:37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as **a hen gathers her chicks** under her wings, and you were not willing

VIII) There are many metaphors in scripture used to reveal God

He is a potter, a Shepherd, a True Vine, the True Bread, the Light of the World, the Door

IX) We are not created in the physical image of God, but in the moral image

Since God is Spirit, He does not have a physical body

When we are born again, we now have moral attributes

I) This new creation has put on true righteousness and true holiness

Col 3:10 says we have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator

II) Righteousness, holiness, and knowledge are all attributes of God

When we are saved, we receive imputed righteousness

2 Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

III) We are made holy (hagios—set apart) and live lives set apart from sin and apart to Him

1 Pe 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

IV) We are renewed in knowledge: the sin that separated us is dealt with and we know God

2 Pe 3:18 But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

V) This is the life that Paul is now writing about

VI) The previous verses provided a *contrast* for the old life with the new life **in generalities**

Paul now gives *particulars*, making the connection between **principles** and **practice**

VII) **V25** Putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor for we are members

VIII) **FIRST: Putting away: Stripping, discarding, or casting away**

Jesus Himself is the Truth, and those belonging to Him are to be truthful
Pr 12:22 The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy

IX) Lying has no place in the community of believers (9th commandment: bear false witness)

Instead of an aura of deceit, there should be a sense of honest, loving *openness*

Loving honesty is a beautiful change from the deceitful atmosphere of the world

X) Lying is commonplace and in some jobs, seems to be expected

SALESMAN: They expect me to lie to them and if I don't, they won't buy my product

XI) Instead, Christians are commanded to be habitual truth tellers

This is because we have a *new nature*, and we desire to be like our heavenly Father

Heb 6:18 it is impossible for God to lie

XII) Putting away: This is something that believers discipline themselves to do

1 Ti 4:7 commands us to exercise (train; discipline) ourselves to godliness

I) The fact is, God requires something different from His followers
God intends us to be honest and truthful

Ps 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts

II) This doesn't mean that we should use *honesty* as a weapon
There is a difference between being *honest* and being *candid* (blunt; direct; outspoken)

Some people can be blunt who are not necessarily being honest

III) It does not mean that we should *confront* constantly, unloading whenever we feel like it

Some people must get things off of their chests and constantly hurt people

Pr 17:28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

IV) It does not mean that we should not keep confidences or tell all we know whenever asked

Some do not restrain themselves from revealing what they know

Pr 11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

V) Believers cease telling lies because **we love** our brothers and sisters in Christ

VI) TELLING THE TRUTH: Is intended to keep the body of Christ united in Him

We pursue unity because we have committed our hearts to "The Truth Himself"

Eph 4:15 comes into play here: speaking the truth, in love

VII) V26-27 SECOND: **Be angry**, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath

Anger can be expressed with righteous indignation, or fleshly self-

servicing anger

VIII) There is a time for *righteous* anger: Jesus showed this in cleansing the Temple

Ps 119:53 Indignation grips me because of the wicked who have forsaken Your law

IX) In Nehemiah, Nehemiah was angry because the Jews were marrying heathen

This was forbidden to do

Neh 13:23-25 In those days also I saw the Jews who had married

women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people. And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.

X) Believers should have anger towards injustice, immorality, and ungodliness

Ps 69:9 for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

I) When members of the Corinthian church were stumbled, Paul felt anger over it

2 Co 11:29 Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation
This kind of anger is the result of a deep, settled conviction

II) There is a *fleshly* anger that we must guard against (could lead to murder-6th command)

This kind of anger is vindictive and unjustified: It is simply bitterness out of control

III) By not settling quickly it can fester and boil over (during the night or in the morning)

It is normally wiser to deal with such anger soon, when the time is proper

Jas 1:19-20 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

IV) A key to dealing with anger is remembering Who is in control and who we are

Ro 12:17-19 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

V) V27 nor give place to the devil

By harboring anger and desiring revenge, the devil is given opportunity
He can use such anger to destroy families, friendships, and churches

VI) V28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor working with his hands

Petty theft has dramatically increased

According to crimedoctor.com It is estimated that shoplifting occurs 330 – 440 million times per year at a loss of \$10-\$13 billion dollars. Nationwide, that equates to 1.0-1.2 million shoplift incidents every day at a loss rate of \$19,000-\$25,300 dollars stolen per minute.

VII) THIRD: Move from stealing from others and begin sharing with others (8th command)

Working with his hands what is **good** speaks of honest labor

Christians are not to be doing something on the job that is dishonest

VIII) The world is basically made up of two kinds of people: Givers and takers
Labor honestly and live generously

IX) V29 Let no *corrupt* communication proceed out of your mouth but what is good for

Corrupt: Rotten, foul, or decayed: Dirty jokes, profanity, vulgarity, suggestive speech

X) There is so much casual profanity we can begin to use language that is inappropriate

X) It is everywhere we turn, and controlling our language can be very difficult

I) Jas 3:6 tells us that the tongue is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body

Jas 3:8 he says no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil full of poison

II) The mouth only communicates what is already within the heart
If you want to know what is in **a person's heart**, just listen to what they say

III) A habitually foul mouth reveals a foul heart
Lu 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

IV) What can we do? Fill our hearts with what is good
Seek God to purify your heart
Ps 141:3 Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.

V) Meditate on things that are good and you will speak what is pure
Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**—if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**—think about such things.

VI) Instead of speaking corrupt words, we seek to speak edifying words
Ps 71:8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day

VII) Why should we care about something as trivial as our speech
We must remember that words can be used maliciously or encouragingly
Pr 12:18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.

VIII) It should be our desire that we may impart *grace* to the hearers:
Col 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone
Our speech needs to be a preservative, keeping back the rottenness of the world

IX) V30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of

Finally: If we are saved, how then should we live?

- X) Our behavior should not grieve (sadden; offend) God's Holy Spirit**
This reveals that the Holy Spirit is a Person, and not simply energy or a force
- XI) It is this same Holy Spirit who seals us for the day of redemption**
God has placed the Spirit in our lives as a guarantee of ownership: we belong to Him
- I) In Ch. 1:13 the Spirit was spoken of as the Holy Spirit of promise**
- II) He is called the Holy Spirit of Promise because God had promised to send Him**
Is 44:3 I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon your children, and My blessing upon your offspring
Lu 24:49 Behold, I send *the Promise of My Father* upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.
- III) I mentioned that sealing reveals various things**
It represents a finished transaction (Jer 32:9-10)
A proof of ownership (Jesus bought us by redemption-2 Ti 2:19)
Third, it represents security in Jesus
- IV) V30 This is all performed by the Father**
2 Co 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
- V) The Day of Redemption is when God brings us home**
Complete redemption is still a future event (Eph 1:13-14)
Ro 8:23 We also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.
- VI) V31-32 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you**
We determine to get rid of every trace of these kinds of moral blemishes
They are not the fruit of a Spirit filled life, but are fleshly (Gal 5:19-21)

VII) This word order shows the progression from wrath to malice
Bitterness: An unwillingness to let something go; thin skinned
Wrath: Passionate outburst; boiling over
Anger: Settled anger; deep seated; seeking revenge
Clamor: Noise; disorder; harsh brawling
Evil speaking: Angry backbiting; slander; railing against someone
Malice: Desiring every kind of malicious evil to fall upon someone

VIII) V32 Instead, believers treat one another with kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness

We have been forgiven of all our sins, and this reveals that we understand forgiveness

Ps 103:12-14 As far as the east is from the west so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

IX) Forgiving others reveals that we have understood that we ourselves have been forgiven