

Ephesians 4:25-32 Old Clothes vs New Clothes

Paul has just instructed us to put off the old self and put on the new self. Now he gives five exhortations to help us evaluate how we are spiritually dressed. Each one has three parts: a negative command, a positive command, and the reason for the positive command.

Verse 25 – Stop Deceiving

Negative – Lay aside falsehood

Positive – Speak truth, each one of you, with your neighbor

Reason – We are members of one another

Verses 26-27 – Avoid Sinning When Angry

Negative – Be angry, and yet do not sin.

Positive – Do not let the sun go down on your anger (deal with it quickly).

Reason – Do not give the devil an opportunity. Anger that is not dealt with gives Satan a foothold to lead us into further sin.

Verse 28 – Do not Steal

Negative – Let him who steals steal no longer.

Positive – Let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good.

Reason – In order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

Verses 29-30 – Speak Properly

Negative – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth.

Positive – But only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment.

Reason – That it may give grace to those who hear.

Summary reason – Any sin that we commit *grieves* the Holy Spirit. We are *sealed* by Him for the day of redemption (the transformation of our bodies at the resurrection). Our *Position* in Him is secure so we should now live in such a way that our *Condition* reflects who we are in Christ.

The Sealing of the Holy Spirit:

1. We are sealed as to Position – Every seal in scripture denotes an unalterable position of those who are sealed. Revelation 7:2-8, 20:2-3, Daniel 6:17.
2. We are sealed as to ownership - Everyone who believes in Christ is purchased by His precious blood and becomes His very own. The seal of the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of this ownership and since it cannot be broken, believers are secure. It is always the one who seals who is responsible for the object upon which the seal is placed.
3. We are sealed as an earnest of our inheritance - An earnest is a payment made by the purchaser to guarantee the completion of the transaction by him. In Ephesians 1:11 believers are said to have obtained an inheritance, and that inheritance is by the very will of God. As believers we have not yet entered into possession of this inheritance but verse 14 goes on to say that the Holy Spirit is our *earnest* or *pledge* of that inheritance. To say that a believer can be lost is to say that God will not or cannot honor His earnest payment.

We may *grieve* the Holy Spirit by doing what we should not.

We may *quench* the Holy Spirit by not doing what we should.

Verses 31-32 – Proper Heart Attitude

Six vices to put off (the negative):

1. Bitterness – A bitter root producing bitter fruit.
2. Wrath – Anger that boils over.
3. Anger – The disposition of anger.
4. Clamor – Crying out.
5. Slander – Speech injurious to another.
6. Malice – Ill will, the desire to injure others.

Three virtues to put on (the positive):

1. Kindness – Fit for use, virtuous, good.
2. Tender-heartedness – Compassionate, tender.
3. Forgiveness – Gracious pardon.

The Reason – *God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Dave Anderson calls the first four exhortations our *outer-wear* and the last one our *under-wear*! In reality, proper heart attitude is the basis for all of these. What is inside produces what is outside!