

# Major Themes in Ephesians 1:3-14

**UNION WITH CHRIST** (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)

**RICHES/INHERITANCE** (3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14)

**GLORY** (3, 6, 12, 14)

**ELECTION** (4)

**LOVE** (4, 6)

**DIVINE WILL/PLAN** (4, 5, 9, 10, 11)

**ADOPTION** (5)

**PREDESTINATION** (5, 11)

**GRACE** (6, 7)

**REDEMPTION** (7, 14)

**RECONCILIATION** (7, 10)

**WISDOM** (8)

**UNDERSTANDING** (8)

**MYSTERY** (9)

**SALVATION** (13)

**FAITH/BELIEF** (13)

**HOLY SPIRIT** (13, 14)

## **Ephesians 4:25–32 CSB**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, putting away lying, **speak the truth, each one to his neighbor**, because we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> **Be angry and do not sin.** Don't let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and don't give the devil an opportunity. <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be

removed from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

**Nearly every instruction in this pericope is formatted as:**

**1: A “negative” behavior that needs to be stopped or controlled;**

**2: A “positive” behavior that should replace the negative one;**

**3: A theological reason for taking the positive path.**

## **v26-27**

**Negative: “Be angry and do not sin.”**

**Psalm 4:4 CSB**

<sup>4</sup> Be angry and do not sin; reflect in your heart while on your bed and be silent. *Selah*

**James 1:19–20 CSB**

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, <sup>20</sup> for human anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness.

**Positive: “Don’t let the sun go down on your anger...”**

**Reason: “and don’t give the devil an opportunity.”**

## **v28**

**Negative: “Let the thief no longer steal.”**

**Exodus 20:15 CSB**

<sup>15</sup> Do not steal.

**Positive: “Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands...”**

**Proverbs 28:19 CSB**

<sup>19</sup> The one who works his land will have plenty of food, but whoever chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

**Reason: “so that he has something to share with anyone in need.”**

**2 Corinthians 9:6–7 CSB**

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.

## **v29**

**Negative: “No foul language should come from your mouth...”**

**Matthew 12:36 CSB**

<sup>36</sup> I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak.

**Positive: “but only what is good for building up someone in need...”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 CSB**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

**Reason: “so that it gives grace to those who hear.”**

**Colossians 4:6 CSB**

<sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

## **v30**

**Negative: “And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit.”**

**Reason: “You were sealed by Him for the day of redemption.”**

**Ephesians 1:13–14 CSB**

<sup>13</sup> In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. <sup>14</sup> The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

## **v31-32**

**Negative: “Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.”**

**Colossians 3:8 CSB**

<sup>8</sup> But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth.

**Positive: “And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another...”**

**Colossians 3:12–13 CSB**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.

**Reason: “just as God also forgave you in Christ.”**