

CLOTHED WITH A NEW IDENTITY

Ephesians 4:25-32

INTRODUCTION: After Paul reminds the Ephesians of who they once were before they knew Jesus, he then begins to encourage them to live according to their new identity. He gives them examples of old destructive patterns that are to no longer be part of their lives as he encourages them to take up Spirit-led words, actions and attitudes that build up the body.

I. WALK IN TRUTHFUL COMMUNITY v.25-27

A. Put away falsehood. v.25, *John 8:44*

1. We now reject dishonesty, recognizing that it is part of our old life.
2. We recognize that falsehood affects not only us, but also other members of the church. v.25
3. Speaking truth is an act of love for one another.

B. Speak truth with your neighbor. v.25

1. Speaking truth is the responsibility for each member of the body, not just leaders.
2. Speaking truth is relational as it is directed toward our neighbor. 1 *Thessalonians 5:14*
3. This is why it is so important for us to devote ourselves to the truth of the Word. 2 *Timothy 2:15*

C. Handle anger without sin. vv.26-27

1. Anger itself is not forbidden, but sin accompanied by anger should be avoided. *Psalms 4:4*
2. Any anger experienced should be resolved quickly and not allowed to linger. *v.26*
3. Any unresolved anger gives the devil an opportunity to bring division and resentment. *v.27, Philippians 4:8*

II. WALK IN RIGHTEOUS CONDUCT *vv.28-30*

A. Replace stealing with honest labor. *v.28*

1. We no longer take things which do not belong to us. *Luke 19:8*
2. Instead, we now have the mindset of working diligently to provide for our own needs. *v.28, Proverbs 18:9*
3. This diligence enables us to begin helping others who might be in need. *v.28*

B. Replace corrupt speech with edifying speech. *v.29*

1. We are to set aside any words which may serve to tear others down. *Proverbs 18:21*
2. Instead, we are to choose words that bless and encourage others. *v.29, Philippians 2:3*
3. We are to look for opportunities to speak words of blessing in every occasion. *v.29*

C. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. *v.30*

1. Remember the Holy Spirit is not an “it”, but a “Him” who can be grieved.
2. We should never lose sight of the fact that the Holy Spirit is the one who sealed us into our eternal relationship with God.
2 Corinthians 1:21-22, John 14:26
3. We are to live in a manner that brings honor to the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. *John 16:13, Luke 24:49*

III. WALK IN CHRIST-LIKE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS vv.31-32

A. Put away destructive attitudes. v.31

1. There are times when we should exam ourselves to see if there is any resentment we are holding toward others. *Hebrews 12:15*
2. By dealing with resentment, we remove the outward flow of hostility.
3. Destructive and malicious speech are incompatible with who we are in Christ. *1 Peter 3:9, Matthew 6:12*

B. Put on kindness and tenderness. v.32

1. Kindness reflects the true heart and character of Christ who now dwells in us. *2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 13:14*
2. Being tenderhearted reveals our Christ-like sensitivity to those who are around us. v.32
3. This is a true demonstration of our love for others in the church.

C. Forgive as God forgave you. v.32

1. As we recognize the forgiveness extended to us by God through Christ, we in turn extend it to others.
2. Forgiveness releases any debt we might feel is owed to us.
3. Forgiveness preserves unity and freedom within the church. *Mark 3:25*

CONCLUSION: In Christ, we have been clothed with a new identity. The old ways no longer fit. As we walk in truth, righteousness, love, and forgiveness, we reflect Jesus, honor the Holy Spirit, and build up one another as His body.