

Ephesians Series: What is Your Life Mission? #27 “Out with the Old, in with the New”

Message Notes, June 25, 2023

Ephesians 4:25-29

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

“Out with the old, in with the new!”

1. Put off falsehood→Speak the truth

- Falsehood=*pseudos* Counterfeit, intentional falsehood, whatever is not what it professes to be, opposite of the truth. For example: pseudo-science, pseudo-history, pseudo-doctrine (v. 14)
- False teaching—spreading ideas that are not solidly biblical
- False guilt—judging people using legalistic standards
- False freedom—encouraging a lifestyle based on unbiblical standards
- False counsel from hearsay or gossip or incomplete information and assumptions
- Truthfully *alētheia* What is true in any matter under consideration
- True teaching based entirely on the gospel (Bible)
- True forgiveness based on Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf
- True freedom based on God’s loving acceptance and obedience to His standards
- True counsel based on complete, objective information and the Scriptures
- ✚ Motivation: we are members of one body—one team, one family. We cannot inflict harm on each other, because we are all connected together.

2. Anger→Self-control

- The sin that accompanies anger—giving in to the emotion and losing control
- Quote from Psalm 4
¹ Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. ² How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? *Selah* ³ Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. *Selah* ⁵ Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD. ⁶ Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light of your face shine on us. ⁷ Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound. ⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.
- Self-control: David’s focus is not on the injustice he is experiencing or on how to get revenge. He is pondering about God who is with him, whom he can entrust his burden to, and who can keep him safe.
- ✚ Motivation: Not giving the devil a foothold. Anger opens the door of our hearts to the enemy, who wants to confuse our thinking and distract us from our true goal.

3. Stealing→Work

- Stealing—but not just limited to robbery. Do we use work resources for personal use, do personal business during work hours, or take credit for other people’s work?

➤ Work that is useful, honest, and legitimate. Work that is done as unto the Lord, to the best of one's ability. **Colossians 3:23-24** ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

✚ Motivation: To have something to share with those in need. God is a giving God, so as members of His body or family, we are also to be characterized by generosity.

4. Unwholesome talk → Helpful or edifying talk

▪ Unwholesome = *sapros* rotten, putrefied, worn out, of poor quality, worthless, unfit for use. This usage of this term includes slander and gossip.

➤ Helpful/edifying means words that enlighten with the truth, provide what is needed at that moment, and build up the body. We are to speak the truth in love so that people grow and become wiser in the faith. At times this may involve discomfort and temporary pain.

✚ Motivation: To benefit those who hear (to give grace to those who hear): God has given us grace, for salvation and through the indwelling Holy Spirit (the grace), so we can therefore share grace with others, by our attitude (self-control), our words (truthful talk) and by our actions (work).

Conclusion:

- 1) What is God telling you to take off in these four different areas?
- 2) What is God asking you to put on?