

THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Ephesians 4:25-32

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Steps to putting on the new self

- 1) Speak the truth – 4:25 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

Q: Why do we speak the truth?

Worldly reasons to tell the truth

- Because the more lies you tell, the better your memory has to be.
- Because lies usually lead to punishment.
- Because people don't trust liars. Success and integrity ride side by side.

Grace-driven & Christ-focused motivation to tell the truth

- Because we are a new person in Christ – 4:24 *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
- Because our actions impact and reflect our new family – 4:25 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

John 8:44-45 *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* ⁴⁵
But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

Revelation 22:15b

... and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

- 2) Resolve vs. Simmer – 4:26-27 *Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.*
- 3) Give vs. Take – 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*
- 4) Build up vs. Tear down – 4:29-31 *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.*
- 5) Be Kind vs. Be Cruel – 4:32 *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*