

Life Group Homework

EPHESIANS 4:25-32

Let's Get Started:

For the past two weeks the world has been watching and hearing testimonies of men and women as members of Congress disagree over what is or what is not impeachable “reliable evidence.”

*“From a Christian perspective, the only **reliable evidence** that a person is saved is not a past experience he or she may have had of receiving Christ—but a present life that authentically reflects Jesus Christ.”*

Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why?

Let's Dig In:

Put Away Falsehood

We begin our text this week with Ephesians 4:24. In verse 25, Paul says, *“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”*

Question: What Old Testament prophet is Jesus quoting? What is the chapter and verse?

A Christian should have no part in any kind of lying. We are to lay aside falsehood because falsehood is incompatible with our new nature in Christ. Everything we say should be unequivocally true. *However, some would argue that telling the truth does not mean telling everything you **KNOW** in every situation.*

Question: What are your thoughts about this?

Question: Does telling the truth require a person to tell everything they know?

Anger

In verse 26 and 27, Paul tackles the emotion of **anger**. Read the scriptures below and briefly share what you see them revealing about anger from the Bible's perspective.

Psalm 69:9

Mark 3:3

Matthew 21:12

John 2:15

In **Matthew 5:21-22**, Jesus says, "...*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'* But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."

Question: What is your explanation of how this scripture is to be applied to the Christian life today?

Stealing

In **verse 28**, Paul says, "...*Let the thief no longer steal.*" Then Paul goes on in the verse to give us the godly alternative to stealing.

Question: What is that alternative? In other words, what is the purpose of honest work? What are we to do with the blessings of our resources from our labor?

Wholesome Words

In verse 29, Paul says that an indication of our new nature in Christ is to move from unwholesome

words to wholesome words that edify others. Using your Bible resources, find at least three other passages of scripture that align with Paul's counsel regarding Christian words, speech and use of our tongue. List them below.

1.

2.

3.

Grieving the Holy Spirit

In verse 30, Paul gives us what should be a shocking perspective of God's reaction to the Christian when we venture into sin by lying, stealing, cursing, and striking out or harboring unresolved anger. He says, "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*" But even beyond **grieving** the Holy Spirit, 1 Thessalonians 5:19 shows us that sin can lead to **quenching** the Holy Spirit.

Question: In your own words, what is the difference between **grieving** the Holy Spirit and **quenching** the Holy Spirit?

Let's Live It Out Together:

Even amid biblical admonition and clarity of what is sinful and what is godly behavior, it is important to always keep in mind that Christianity is not based upon good performance—it is based upon the grace of God. It's been said that grace may be thought of as "undeserved pardon for one who does not deserve it from one who does not have to give it." The paradox of the Christian life is that God's sovereignty and man's will are both at work at the same time.

In light of how grateful we should be of our Lord's grace and love demonstrated on the cross for us, and since we will be observing Thanksgiving next week, close your group time with people sharing what they are most grateful for in this season of their life.