

**Title:** Speak, Think, and Act as a Christian

**Passage:** Ephesians 4:25-32

**Context:**

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

Ephesians 4:22-24

*to put off your old self*, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and *to put on the new self*, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Passage:** 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. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. 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. 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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Introduction:**

Christians - people may say they are but then they do not pursue holiness or godliness

Second Awakening - Jonathan Edwards wrote a book "True Revival"

- one of main characteristics of true revival: holiness
- not perfection but people who strive everyday to be like Christ

Temptation of our flesh: Using the beauty of grace to deny the ugliness of sin

Sanctification: God commands us to subdue our fleshly temptations to Him. God's grace, truly understood, seeks to to walk like Jesus.

1 John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Overview:** Five Practical Examples in Holiness

- I. Put off lying, speak truthfully
- II. Put off unrighteous anger, put on righteous anger
- III. Put off stealing, put on generous, giving heart
- IV. Put off corrupting talk, put on building up talk
- V. Put off natural vices, put on godly habits

**I. PUT OFF LYING, SPEAK TRUTHFULLY**

Ephesians 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.

### Zechariah 8:17

do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”

- God’s exhortation: fight temptation to lie for personal gain or avoid consequences

### *Falsehood*

- meaning = the lie = anything that is against truth of God

### John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### *Why we have temptations to lying*

1. Falsely represent one’s works
  - Overcompensate for lack of discipline or integrity
2. Falsely represent ourselves or others
  - Pumping up ourselves whether misrepresenting themselves or others to lift them up
  - “Perfecting enemy” = make someone look so bad that others hate the person
3. Misrepresenting facts
  - When in a corner when having to choose between the truth/hard way to the lie/easy way out (ex: needing to sell car that is a lemon)

### *Why speak truthfully?*

“For we are members of one another”

- Why not lie? It affects of the body of Christ.

### Ephesians 4:15-16

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Your words affect the ability for the church to function.
  - If you are not truthful or having integrity, it affects the way you represent Christ in the community

Example: Achan (Joshua 7)

- one’s sin affects the whole community.

Example: Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

- Their sin: lying about having donated all proceeds from property sale to church when actually kept some.
- Why death as punishment? Integrity is held in high regard by God.

Holiness means living a life of integrity. Not hypocrisy. Lies always have devastating effects to people in your life.

Colossians 3:8-10

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Proverbs 12:19, 22

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment....Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

Psalms 141:3

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
keep watch over the door of my lips!

**II. PUT OFF SINFUL ANGER, PUT ON RIGHTEOUS ANGER.**

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

*Righteous Anger*

- God is angry with sin. Proper to be angry at injustice and sin.

Psalms 7:11

God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

1 Kings 11:9

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

John 2:14-16

In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

Anger

- Definition: our whole active response against negative moral judgment against perceived evil.
  - Feeling arises out of judgment call

*Righteous anger - principles*

- reacts against actual sin
  - Jesus was acting against those misusing temple
  - Contrast: sinful anger acts out against things that are not sin

### Romans 12:9

Let love be genuine. *Abhor what is evil*; hold fast to what is good.

### Psalms 97:10

O you who love the LORD, *hate evil!* He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

- focuses on God's kingdoms and God's rights and concerns (not mine)
  - Jesus anger was motivated by his zeal for His Father's house
  - contrast: sinful anger is from perceived damage against us
  - Question: Is my anger because God didn't get what He deserved/wanted or is it because I don't get what I wanted

### Psalms 69:9

For zeal for your house has consumed me,  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

- righteously expressed
  - righteous anger is not righteous if not expressed righteously
    - Ex: You kill an abortionist

### *Sinful Anger*

- Where does it come from? Comes from our heart.

### Mark 7:21-22

For from within, *out of the heart of man*, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

- External circumstances do not create us sinfully angry, it merely exposes sin already in our hearts.
  - No one else causes us to be angry. The cause lies deep within us: pride, selfish desires, desire to control
- Wrong desires in our hearts

### James 4:1-3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

- Think about last time you were angry: what was it that you wanted?
  - Legitimate or not?
  - Legitimate desire becomes sinful when it becomes a controlling desire.

What is wrong with sinful anger?

- You are sinning against God.
- You are miserable out of loss (loss of peace, relationships, money, etc.)

What can be done?

- Admit your sin. To those offended regardless of how long ago.
- God is God and He is the ultimate judge.
  - When others wrong us, leave to God. They also wronged God

### Romans 12:19-21

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- God is very gracious to you in Christ. Remember what God has done for you.
- God is in control in doing good for us.
- God grants us wisdom and power through His Spirit in us.

### **Related Passages - New Nature in Christ**

#### 2 Peter 1:3-4

*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become *partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

#### Titus 3:3-7

*For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but *according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

### **Related Passages - Forgiveness**

#### 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

#### 1 Peter 3:8-9

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.