

## Ephesians 4:20-5:4 - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 9-23-15

### Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. **New Standards - unity and purity** (4:1-5:21)
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

### Six Concrete Examples (4:25-5:4)

3 observations:

- All concern \_\_\_\_\_
  - Holiness is not experienced in a vacuum, but among people.

John Wesley, *The Works of John Wesley* Volume XIV: "Directly opposite to this [the approach of the desert mystics] is the gospel of Christ. Solitary religion is not to be found there. "Holy solitaires" is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than holy adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness."

- Each negative command is \_\_\_\_\_ by a corresponding positive command
  - Not enough to simply put something off. We have to actively put something on.
  - Cf. "diligently preserve unity"
- Each includes a \_\_\_\_\_ for the command, either given or implied
  - The "what" and the "why" always dovetail

#### 1. Don't tell lies, but rather tell the truth (4:25)

- Fellowship/unity is based on trust, and trust is built on truth

#### 2. Don't lose your temper, rather ensure that your anger is righteous (4:26-27) - Cf. Ps. 4:4

- Not a command to be angry, but an idiom that \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ anger
- Righteous vs. unrighteous anger [Jesus in Mk. 3:5; God's wrath (ch. 2) = "God's personal, righteous, constant hostility to evil, his settled refusal to compromise with it, and his resolve instead to condemn it."]
- 3 restraints (vv. 26-27)

#### 3. Don't steal, rather work and give (4:28)

#### 4. Don't use your mouth for evil, but rather for good (4:29-30)

- "evil" = rotten talk vs. edification
- Our words \_\_\_\_\_ what is in our hearts. (cf. Matt. 12:33-37; James 3:1-12, Prov. 12:18)
- V. 30 - the HS grieves when we don't wear the new clothes

#### 5. Don't be unkind or bitter, but rather kind and loving (4:31-5:2)

- 6 unpleasant attitudes to put away entirely (v. 31):

- Welcome the kind of qualities which characterize Christ (4:32-5:2)
- “Imitators of God” (cf. Mt. 5:45, 48)
- “Walk in love” (5:2) - Gentiles’ “given over” (4:19) vs. Christ’s self-giving
- \_\_\_\_\_-centered ethic: Imitate (the Father, 5:1); Learn Christ/walk in his love (4:20; 5:2); Do not grieve the HS (4:30)

6. Don’t joke about sex, but rather give thanks for it (5:3-4)

- From self-sacrifice to self-indulgence. From love to lust.
- Immorality AND “vulgarity”. Instead, “give thanks” (for sex).

**Summary**

- Christian experience (what we are), theology (what we believe), and ethics (how we behave)
- Live a life that is “worthy” (4:1) and “fitting” (5:3) among the saints
  - Doctrine and conduct belong together