

Walking in Truth and Holiness



READ IT:

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ 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, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

The main point: The kind of lifestyle expected of those who have “learned Christ” involves abandoning old ways of life and putting on new patterns by being renewed in our thinking.



EXAMINE IT:

Observation—What do I see?

- Any repeated words? _____
- Who is the subject? _____
- Who is the object? _____
- What are the action verbs? _____
- What are the conjunctions? _____
- Any purpose clauses (“so that”)? _____
- Any commands? _____



OUTLINE IT:

Structure/Bones—What are the important markers?

A. The Admonition (vv.17-24)

1. What we once were (vv.17-20)

¹⁷ So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way,

2. What we are now (vv.21-24)

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

3. What we are to become (vv.25-32)

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ 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, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

B. The Application (vv.25-32)

1. Truth must replace falsehood. (v.25)

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

2. Unrighteous anger must be replaced by righteous anger. (vv.26-27)

²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.

3. Generosity must replace theft. (v.28)

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

4. Blessing must replace cursing. (v.29)

²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

5. Kindness must replace animosity. (vv.30-32)

³⁰ 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, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.



UNDERSTAND IT:

Interpretation—What does it mean?

Key words and theological and practical uses

What are the key words and why do they matter?

What is the key doctrine(s) and what other passages support it?

What are the uses of this doctrine in everyday life?



APPLY IT:

Choose which applications apply and how you will seek to practice it in your life today.

- What *instruction* does this text reinforce?
- What *error* does this text refute?
- What *duty* does this text require?
- What *prohibition* does this text forbid?
- What *examination* does this text call for?
- What *commitment* does this text declare?
- Is there an *example* to follow?
- Are there *commandments* to obey?
- Are there *errors* to avoid?
- Are there *sins* to forsake or confess?
- Are there *promises* to claim?
- Are there *principles* to implement?
- Are there *temptations* to resist?
- Are there *praises* to render?
- Are there *attitudes* to adjust?

Write it here: (bring it back with you next week to see if you applied it—I double-dog dare you!)

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