



This week Pastor Tim continues his message series “Deconstruction/Reconstruction of the Disciple’s Life as we study Ephesians 4:25-27.

Have you ever told a “little white lie”? Or maybe lying is something that you do so often you don’t even realize you do it. Or maybe you struggle with anger? These are the first two things the Apostle Paul tells us to “put away” as we deconstruct our old gentile-like life and begin to reconstruct our life in a manner that is worthy of our calling.

## Group Study Questions

1. Begin by asking someone in your group to read Ephesians 4:25-32

### Ephesians 4:25-32 ESV

*<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

2. This passage begins with the word “therefore”. When we observe a term like “therefore” in scripture what should we do as we study this text?

#### HINT!

We've often heard Pastor Tim tell us that when we see the word “therefore” in scripture we should ask ourselves, “what is the word ‘therefore’ there for?”

3. Why is it always important to study God’s word in proper context?

## Characteristics of the Reconstructed Life

We are going to study the first two characteristics we see in text.

Ephesians 4:25-27 ESV

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### **#1 Stop lying and speak the truth**

4. Obviously lying was an issue in Ephesus or Paul wouldn't have included it in the text. Do you think it is an issue in our culture today? Why or why not?

*"Our society today is so dependent on lying that if it suddenly turned to telling the truth our way of life would collapse. If world leaders began speaking only the truth, World War III would certainly ensue. So many lies are piled on other lies, and so many organizations, businesses, economies, social orders, governments, and treaties are built on those lies that the world system would disintegrate if lying suddenly ceased. Resentment and animosity would know no bounds, and the confusion would be unimaginable."*

*John MacArthur,  
Ephesians Commentary*

5. What would be described as falsehood? Is it just telling bold-faced lies? Or does it include things like exaggeration? Cheating? Excuses? Unrealistic promises? Flattery?
6. Have someone in your group look up and read Revelation 21:8 and Proverbs 6:16-19. How do these passages explain how God views lying?

7. What does Paul say we are to do with respect to lying? How are we to do that? Why are we to speak truth with our neighbor?

## **#2 Trade unrighteous anger for righteous anger**

8. What is the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger?

9. When is it appropriate to show anger (righteous anger)?

10. When we are angry, what are we commanded not to do? (v. 26)

11. How does Paul tell us keep our anger from turning to sin? Why is this important?

12. In what ways does Romans 12:17-21 help to clarify this text?

13. We all commit sins like lying and unrighteous anger. As Christ followers, what are we to do? (refer back to Ephesians 4:22-24)

14. Look up Hebrews 8:12. Does this passage help you keep perspective?

## INTROSPECTION

Ask the Spirit of God to show you where you need to put away falsehood and unrighteous anger .

If lying is a regular part of your life, what does this say about your true nature? *Do you need to put away any aspects of falsehood in your life? How can you better seek to lovingly speak truth to your neighbor?*

*Do you struggle with unrighteous anger? Does your wrath cause you seek vengeance? Do you allow your anger to turn into bitterness? Do you have difficulty with forgiveness?*

*Perhaps you are a victim of someone's lies or anger. Does that cause you to want to take vengeance? Have you become bitter or unforgiving?*

**Read 1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** Knowing that you are forgiven, you can put away falsehood and unrighteous anger and walk in a manner worthy of your calling.

## For Further Study and Review Commentary on Ephesians 4:17-27

**4:17-18.** The Ephesian believers who were Gentiles (2:1-2, 11-12) were not to walk as the Gentiles do, or as implied, as they had once walked. Gentiles walked **in the futility of their thinking**. The word for “futility” (mataiotēti; cf. Rom. 1:21) suggests being void of useful aim or goal. (This noun is used only here and in Rom. 8:20 [of Creation] and 2 Peter 2:18 [of words]). The verb mataioō is used in Rom. 1:21, “their thinking became futile.” Unbelieving Gentiles failed to attain the true purpose of the mind, namely, to receive God’s revelation which would guide them in their conduct. Since their minds could not receive God’s revelation, **their understanding was darkened** (Rom. 1:21; 2 Cor. 4:4), being **separated** (lit., “alienated”; cf. Eph. 2:12) **from the life of** (that comes from) **God**. Their alienation is **because of their ignorance** of God (cf. 1 Peter 1:14); and this is because of **the hardening of their hearts**, their being insensitive to God and His ways.

**4:19.** Because of their lack of **sensitivity** these Gentiles gave **themselves over** (“abandoned themselves”; cf. Rom. 1:24, 26, 28) **to sensuality** (*aselgeia*, “licentiousness”; cf. Mark 7:22; Rom. 13:13; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; 1 Peter 4:3; 2 Peter 2:2, 7, 18; Jude 4), a life without concern for personal standards or social sanctions. Their purpose (*eis*) was to practice **every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more** (lit., “in greed”), indulging in self-gratification without regard for others. This is a horrible picture of sinful people’s selfish and perverted ways.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE NEW MAN (4:20-32).

a. *His position* (4:20-24).

**4:20-24.** In contrast (*de*) with the “old man” (vv. 17-19) believers **did not come to know** (lit., “learn”) **Christ that way**. Their minds are no longer darkened; their lives are no longer alienated from God; their hearts are no longer hardened and impure. Christ is the Subject (**you heard of Him**) and the Sphere (**you were taught in Him**) of a believer’s learning. This teaching and learning is **in accordance with the truth**, because He is the Truth (John 14:6). The content of this learning is twofold: (1) A believer has **put off the old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires** (cf. Eph. 4:17-19). Self-centered lusts are deceitful because they promise joy but fail to provide it. (2) He has **put on the new self** which has been **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**, which is based on truth (v. 24). This truth contrasts with the deceitfulness of lustful living (cf. vv. 14-15). Believers have been **made new in the attitude of their minds**; they are no longer futile in their thinking, darkened in their understanding, and ignorant (vv. 18-19). These are not commands, for the construction here (and in the parallel passage in Col. 3:9-10) is not imperative. They are facts that believers have learned, as is also seen in Romans 6:2-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Believers are new people in Christ, and hence they can no longer live as Gentiles live, as the next exhortations state.

b. *His practice* (4:25-32).

Each of the following five exhortations about a believer’s conduct has three parts: (1) a negative command, (2) a positive command, and (3) the reason for the positive command.

**4:25.** Having **put away falsehood**, believers are to tell the truth (cf. v. 15). Truth is conforming one’s words to reality. The reason for this exhortation is that believers **are all members of one** another in Christ’s **body**, the church (cf. vv. 4, 16).

**4:26-27.** While believers may at times be legitimately angry (with righteous **anger** against sin; cf. John 2:13-16), they are **not to sin**. The way to prevent such sin is to “keep short accounts,” dealing with the anger before **the sun goes down**. The reason is that **the devil** would like to intensify a Christian’s righteous anger against sin, causing it to become sin itself. This then gives the devil **a foothold** (lit., “a place”), an opportunity for leading that Christian into further sin. Then anger begins to control the believer rather than the believer controlling his anger.\*

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\*Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures (2:636-637). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.