

New Clothes for a New Life

Ephesians 4:25-32

Introduction

I The True Christian Is To "Put Off" Lying

- A. The "old man" thinks nothing of lying
- B. The "new man" speaks the truth - Col 3:8-10

II The True Christian Is To "Put Off" Anger

- A. The "old man" gets angry
Anger = To tremble with fear or rage
- B. The "new man" may get angry, but he does not sin
 - 1. There is a place for anger - Mk 3:5; Jn 2:13-17
 - 2. The dangers we need to avoid:
 - a. Allowing it to linger - Ps 4:4; Eph 4:26
 - b. Allowing it to stumble us - Eph 4:27

III The True Christian Is To "Put Off" Stealing

- A. The "old man" is willing to steal - 1 Cor 6:9-10
Klepton = kleptomania
- B. The "new man" works and helps others in need
Work = Strenuous work that produces fatigue
1Thes 4:11-12; II Th 3:10-12

IV The True Christian Is To "Put Off" Unwholesome Talk

- A. The "old man" says what he pleases - Jam 3:9-10
Unwholesome = Rottenness that produces rottenness
- B. The "new man" builds up - Eph 4:15-16; Phil 4:8
 - 1. Why be concerned about unwholesome speech?
 - a. It grieves the Holy Spirit

V The True Christian Is To "Put Off" Ungodliness

- A. The "old man" is full of violence
 - 1. Bitterness - 1 Cor 13:5
 - 2. Rage - Col. 3:8
 - 3. Anger - Col. 3:8

- 4. Brawling - Col. 3:8
- 5. Slander - Col. 3:8
- 6. Every form of malice - Col. 3:8
- B. The "new man" is full of love
 - 1. Kind - Eph 2:7
 - 2. Compassionate - Col 3:12
 - 3. Forgiving - Col 3:13; Matt 18:23-35

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Do you have a favorite piece of old clothing you just can't give up? What is it and why do you keep it? What parallels can you think of between physical clothing and our spiritual lives?
2. Statistics indicate that the average person lies approximately 5 times a day. What kind of things do people lie about? Are some lies acceptable? Why/why not? What impact does lying have on us? On our relationships? On the body of Christ?
3. We all get angry at times. Why is the majority of our anger ungodly? How does anger provide an open door for Satan? What should be our biblical response to personal offense?
4. The number one financial drain on the average business today is employee theft. Why is stealing wrong? Do you steal? What does Paul say that we should do instead?
5. Read Eph 4:29. What do think qualifies as unwholesome talk? Why is it prohibited by Paul [Eph 4:12-13]. In the latter part of the verse, Paul lays out three criteria for acceptable speech. What are they? How can you apply this concept this week?
6. In verse 31 Paul tells us to get rid of ungodliness and put on kindness, compassion and forgiveness. Take a moment and consider how you could apply these godly characteristics to challenging relationships.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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