

EPHESIANS

Walk Like a (New) Man

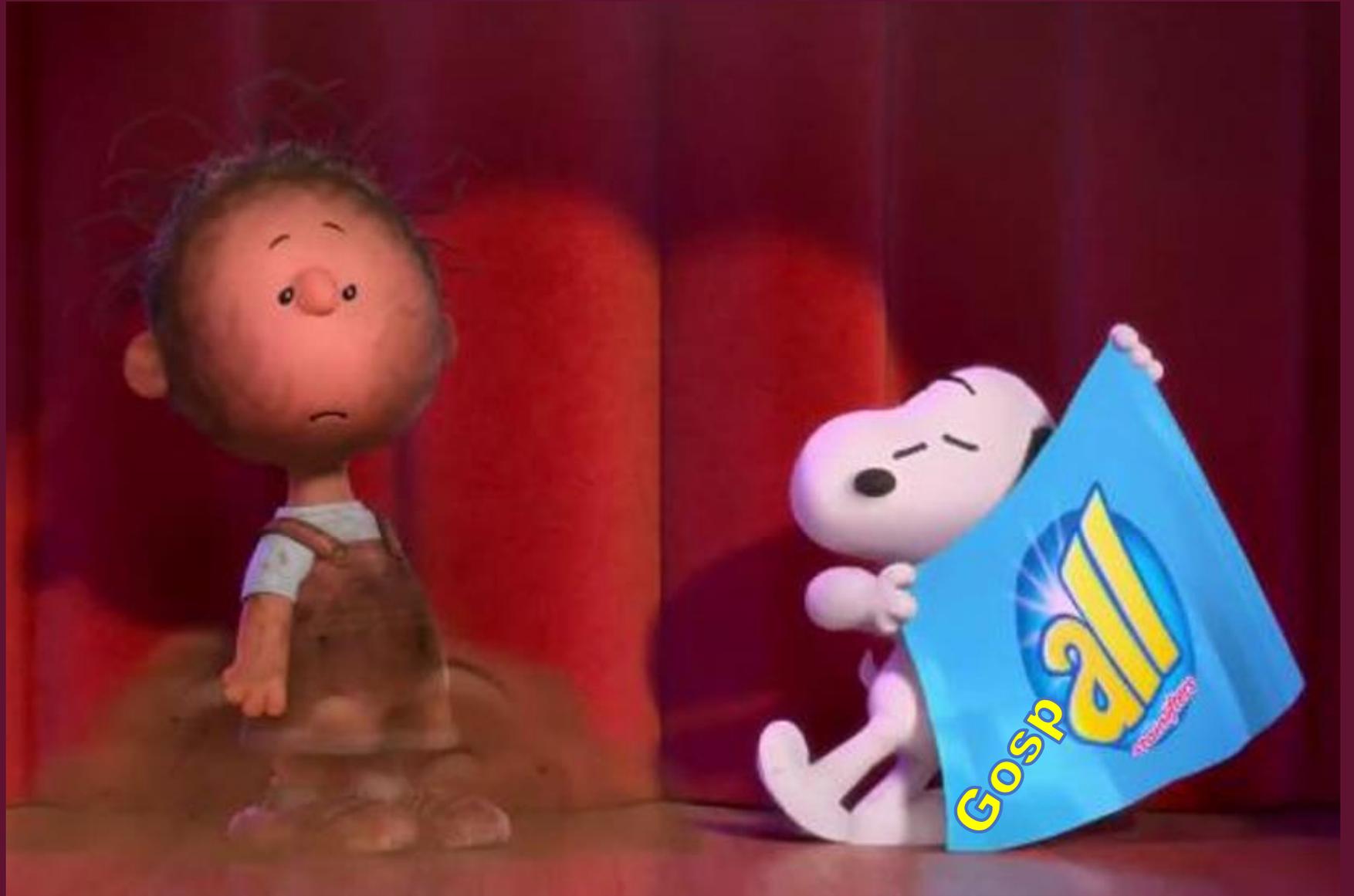
Ephesians 4:25-30



Practice Follows Condition

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“in the futility of their mind, 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; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness” (vv. 18-19).



This Week:

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It follows that the practice of the new man should follow his condition, after he has:

Laid “aside the old self”...been
“renewed in the spirit of [his] mind,
and put on the new self”

Paul’s “Therefore” (v. 25) Indicates
That He Is About To Tell Us Where
The Rubber Meets The Road.



Warren Wiersbe:

“The Bible was written to be obeyed, and not simply studied, and this is why the words ‘therefore’ and ‘wherefore’ are repeated so often in the second half of Ephesians.”

Once Again:

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Holiness Does
Not Happen By
Accident

Application for Today

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As we allow the text to inform us this morning in the matter of Christian living, I want you to make proper applications to yourself in the following three areas:

1. Your Family
2. Your Church
3. The World

In 4:25-29...

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- We find 4 exhortations in relation to the right conduct of the Christian.
- Each one has 3 parts:
 1. A Negative Command
 2. A Positive Command
 3. The Reason Why

Exhortation #1 (v. 25) EPHESIANS

“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

Lie

- Deception is what the false teachers practice –
“the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming” (v. 14).
- It is what the old self does –
“the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit” (v. 22).

Speak the Truth

- **Colossians 3:9** –

“Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices”

- **Zechariah 8:16** –

“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth...”

My “Neighbor?”

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- We are often like the lawyer in Luke 10:29 –
“But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

What parable does Jesus tell immediately following this question?

How Important is This? EPHESIANS

- Mark 12:31 –

“The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

So, First & Foremost, Where Should
This Love Be On Display?

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The Christian belongs to and must function honestly in a group, the church.

Obviously lying is sinful for a number of reasons, but Paul's context here is within the local church, and truthful speech is essential to unity in the body.

Exhortation #2 (vv. 26-27) EPHESIANS

“Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

Be Angry?

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- This verse is challenging given Paul's command in v. 31 –
“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.”
- Furthermore, he is quoting from Psalm 4:4a, but in our Bibles, that verse reads:
“Tremble, and do not sin”

7 Commentaries...

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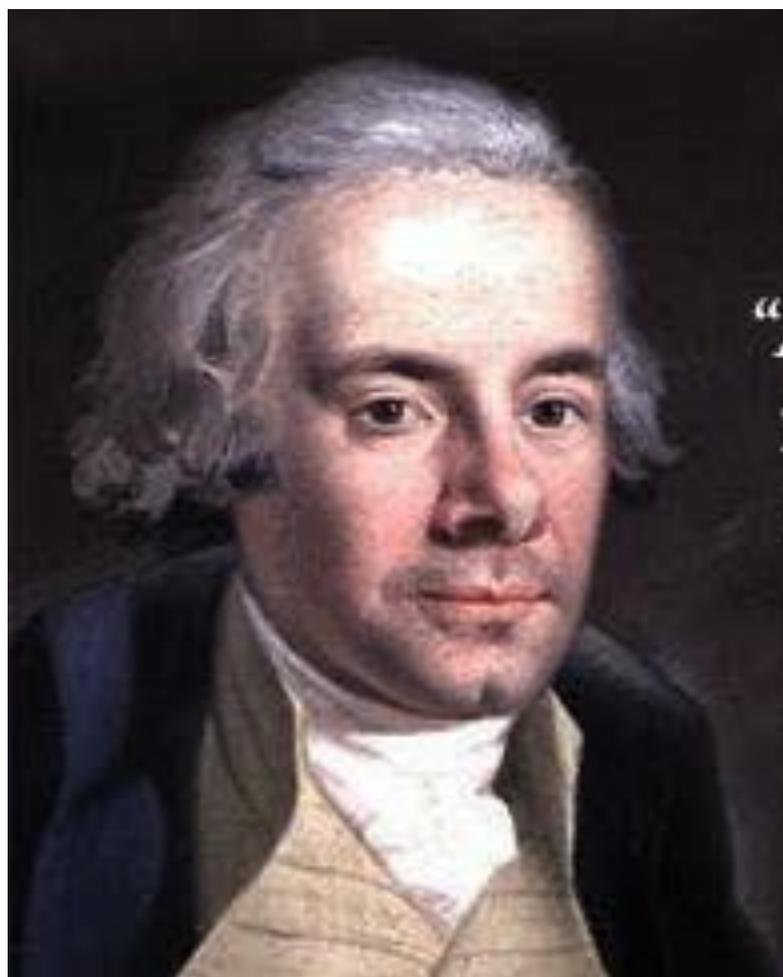
1. “You are angry, yet do not sin.”
2. “Are you angry? Then do not sin.”
3. “Be angry, and do not sin.”
4. “Be angry (if you must), but do not sin.”
5. “If you are angry, do not sin.”
6. “Although you may get angry, do not sin.”
7. “Do not be angry and do not sin.”

“Be Angry” is in the
Present Passive Imperative.

- **Simply Put:**

“The passive imperative is a command directed to you in which you are not the active doer, but rather the cooperator and recipient of someone else’s doing, and yet you still retain responsibility.”

“Paul is placing a moral obligation on believers to be angry as the occasion requires. As his injunction is...dealing with how believers are to interact with each other rather than with the world [and] Since this righteous indignation is a part of our response to imitate God, it must be an ‘enlightened wrath, the wrath whitened by grace.’ As God himself does not dwell in anger, neither should we. As anger is the dark side of God – his strange work – so too wrath must never characterize the believer.”



“A PRIVATE FAITH THAT
DOES NOT ACT IN THE
FACE OF OPPRESSION
IS NO FAITH AT ALL.”

William Wilberforce

Control Their Anger

Anger is not sinful in and of itself, and we know this because our Savior became angry at the presence of sin and unbelief.

However, when we find ourselves angry, we are rarely exhibiting the righteous anger of Jesus.

19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

Let Sin Fester

Letting the sun go down on one's wrath is a figure of speech that emphasizes the need to deal with sin soon.

Paul's advice is sound; it's based on an OT ethic, and the truth is that the longer a disagreement is allowed to fester the more dangerous it becomes.

Anger Must Be Dealt With

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- How So? 1 John 1:9 –

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

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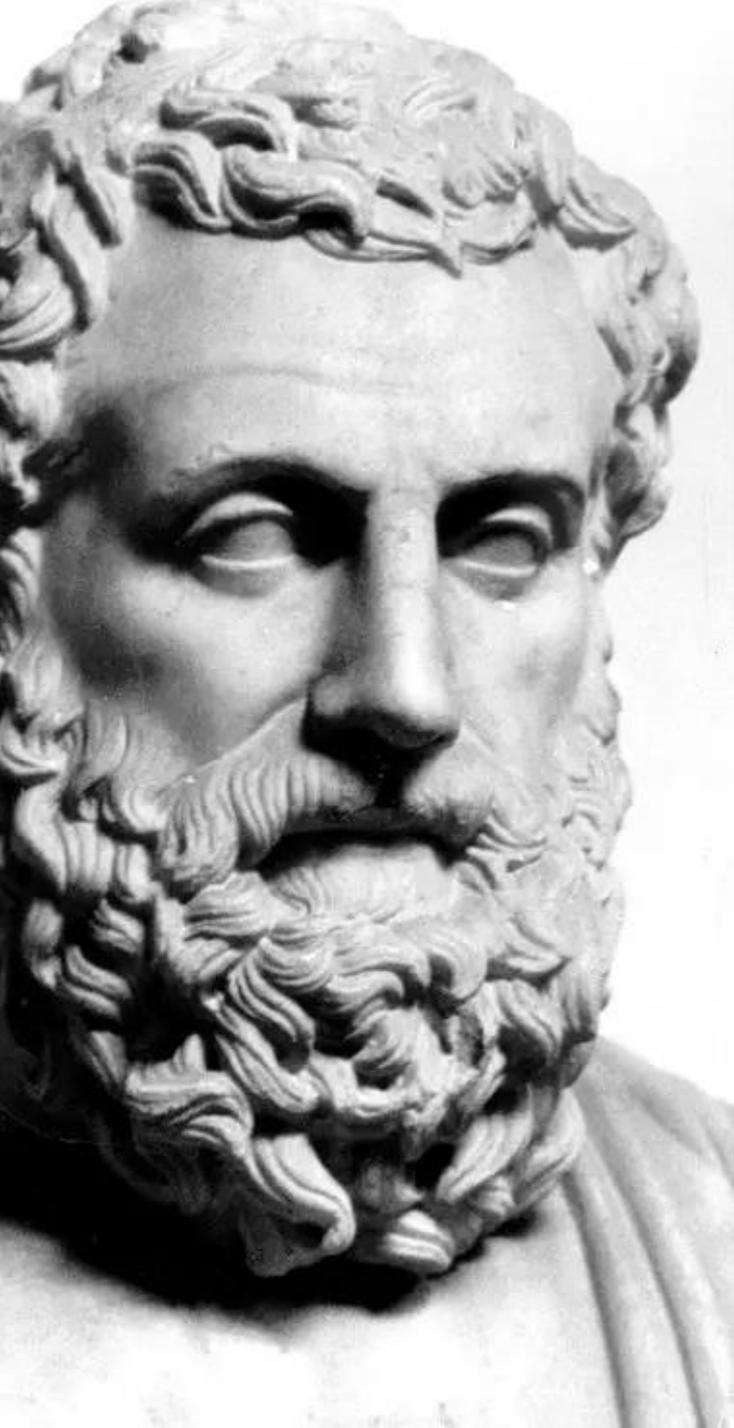
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**We Cannot Give Satan An
Opportunity**

**Satan would love to tempt us into
further sin.**

**We are very good at justifying our
anger and its repercussions.**





Aristotle

“Anyone can become angry, but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way – this is not easy.”

Exhortation #3 (v. 28) EPHESIANS

“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.”

Steal

Stealing (*klepton*) covers all forms of misappropriation.

And it should sound familiar!

Exodus 20:15 – “You shall not steal.”

Work

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10–

“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.”



From CNBC:

“The overview notes that the Green New Deal aims to provide ‘economic security for all who are unable or *unwilling* to work.’”

What is the first
instance of
“work” in the
Bible?

Genesis 2:2

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“By the seventh day God completed His *work* which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His *work* which He had done.”

- *And not long after that, Genesis 2:15 –*

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”

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We Are Called To Provide

This is NOT Social Welfare.

**I work so that I can provide
for my family, for my church,
and for those in need.**

Exhortation #4 (v. 29) EPHESIANS

“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.”

Speak Distastefully

Anything that injures others or causes dissension in the body is unwholesome.

The Greek, *sapros*, has the idea of “rotten, putrefied, corrupted.”

Hung the following motto on his
dining room wall:

**“He who speaks evil of
an absent man or
woman is not welcome
at this table.”**

Edify

Christians should use words to build up people rather than to tear them down.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 –

“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”



**Eliphaz the Temanite
in Job 4:4**

“Your words
have helped
the tottering
to stand, And
you have
strengthened
feeble
knees.”

He Gave Us Gifts!

- Ephesians 4:12 –

“for the equipping of the saints
for the work of service, to the
building up of the body of
Christ”

We Are To Give Grace

Words communicate encouragement and direction and thus enable the hearer to do right.

- 1 Peter 4:10 –

“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

You Have Been Given EPHESIANS

4 Exhortations to Pursue Personal Holiness in the Areas of Lying, Anger, Stealing, and Speech.

But isn't this just basic morality that even the pagans would observe?

Ephesians 4:30

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“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

- **A Little Grammar:**

In the Greek, v. 30 is connected to v. 29 (*kai*).

Why is that Important?



He is Not an “It”

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The Holy Sprit is a Person of the Trinity, a divine, personal Being to Whom we can both bring joy and cause pain.

- **When we understand this:**

1. It helps us to better understand how much we are loved by God.
2. It motivates us to holiness.



Charles Spurgeon

“For it is an inexpressibly delightful thought, that He who rules heaven and earth, and is the creator of all things, and the infinite and ever blessed God, condescends to enter into such infinite relationships with his people that his divine mind may be affected by their actions.”

Consider the Spirit

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He baptized us, He sealed us, He teaches us, and He prays for us.

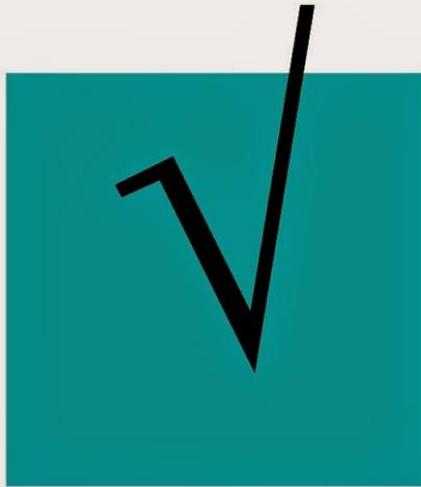
What are we saying when we carelessly and callously grieve the Holy Spirit with our words and deeds?

Lewis Sperry Chafer

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“Grieving the Holy Spirit amounts to rejecting a priceless gift from God.”

TO DO TODAY...



Put off
the old man



Put on the
new man

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