



Ephesians 4:25-27

Truth and Controlled Anger

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The Lie Is Laid Aside

Ephesians 4:25a (ESV)

Therefore, having put away **falsehood...**

- "Falsehood" is literally "the lie"
- "Therefore" refers to the fact we are "the new man" (vs. 24) so we are exhorted to act like it
- "The lie" was put away with the old man; holiness of the truth comes with the new

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1

Speak Truth to One Another

Ephesians 4:25b (ESV)

...let each one of you **speak the truth** with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

- Paul cites the Greek translation of Zechariah 8:16, thus "neighbor"
- Neighbor was a common term in OT for the covenant community (see Lev. 19:18)
- The church is a community committed to the truth and should speak accordingly

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2

Be Angry With Sin, Not in Sin

Ephesians 4:26 (ESV)

Be angry and **do not sin**; do not let the sun go down on your anger

- This comes from Psalm 4:4 (Greek)
- Eph. 5:5, 6 show that God's wrath is directed against immorality
- In Eph. 4:31 Paul says to put away anger
- The 2nd "anger" in vs. 26 is different than the first and likely denotes "festering anger" or "provocation"

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3

Do Not Facilitate Satan

Ephesians 4:27 (ESV)

and give no opportunity to the devil.

- The negative disjunction in the Greek ties this to handling anger in vs. 26 (“nor”)
- “Opportunity” is *topos* (place)
- The devil is the “slanderer” who fights the church using accusations
- The devil seeks to seduce people away from God and harm the flock

Five Imperatives

Ephesians 4:25-27

1. Speak truth
2. Be angry
3. Do not sin
4. Do not let anger fester
5. Do not facilitate the devil

Implications and Applications

- All Christians must be committed to truth and characterized by truth
- We must distinguish between sinful anger and rightful refusal to tolerate wickedness parading as “good”
- Be willing to suffer under unjust situations if it is for the sake of the Gospel

God Only Speaks Truth

Titus 1:2 (NASB)

in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

1 John 2:21 (NASB)

I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

Slow to Anger

James 1:19-21 (ESV)

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for **the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God**. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

God Is Patient But Just

Romans 2:4, 5 (ESV)

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and **patience**, not knowing that **God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance**? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are **storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath** when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.