

Culture Codes: Clarity is Kindness

Ephesians 4:25-32

Introduction:

Over the course of five weeks, Pastor Kevin is taking the church through a series called “Culture Codes.” The purpose of this series is to look at the attitudes and practices that we should be demonstrating to one another and in our spheres of influence. This is merely a discussion guide that is meant to help you move the conversation forward. Life Group members are welcomed to utilize resources for taking the discussion deeper. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1852-1853. – JF

Questions:

Share a story from a time in your life when the instructions you were given were unclear. What happened as a result of the unclear instructions? How did that make you feel? What happened to your relationship with the other person who was unclear? What should they have done differently? What should you have done differently? What do you think/feel about the concept that “clarity is kindness”? Why is this concept important for Christians to understand?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32. Who wrote the book of Ephesians? Why was the book of Ephesians written? What happened in the book prior to our passage today (*you can skim, read, or may already know Ephesians well enough to answer this question. The point is to ensure context and clarity*)? Is there any significant observation from our reading that you would like to highlight before we move forward?

What does it mean to put away falsehood? How are Christians to speak the truth with their neighbors? What does speaking the truth look like? What does it mean for Christians to be “members of one another” (v. 25)? How can one be angry but not sin? What does it mean to not let the sun go down on your anger? How does this relate to the concept of clarity is kindness? What does it mean for the thief to no longer steal? Why would that need to be addressed to a group of Christians?

In verse 29, Paul says “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.” The word for “corrupting” implies something that is rotten, worthless, or bad. Why can there be a connection between words that are rotten or worthless and unclear words that lead to being unkind? In what ways have you said or experienced words that are rotten and worthless? What issues did that cause in your worship? In your relationships? And in your life? How might a person be guilty of choosing their preferences, rightness, or be presenting when choosing to use words that are unclear and unkind (*this question is meant to help us connect the previous culture codes to this week’s topic*)?

Continuing with verse 29, Paul says that our words are to be good for building up as fits the occasion. The word for building up is to imply a sense of edification for those who are being talked to. What does it mean to edify others? How should our edification be clear? How is edification kind? Share a story from a time where someone within Legacy offered you words that were kind and edified your soul? How are you at speaking words that edify others? Are you known as a person who speaks clearly and kindly, even to those outside of your closest relationships at the church? How might you begin to use your words to be clear and kind to build others up?

Paul concludes the chapter by telling the Ephesians to put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice. How might your words demonstrate one of these attitudes that Paul commands be put away? What might you need to do to root these attitudes out of your life? Paul then tells the Ephesians to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to one another because that is how Christ is towards them (and us). How would others say you have been at being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving towards those in the Life Group and in the church? How have your words clearly demonstrated your kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness towards others? Is there anything from Pastor Kevin’s sermon that you would like to discuss further? Is there anything from your observations or own study of this passage that you would like to discuss?

Conclude:

Brainstorm ways to seek to be clear and kind with your words, then pray to walk in faithful obedience.