

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 11/24/2019

Ephesians 4: 25-5:2 Ephesians: The Gospel for All of Life

by Eric Bobbitt

*The Church that Loves as Jesus*

### Overview

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In the previous section of Ephesians 4, the Apostle Paul commanded the Ephesians to put off their old self, corrupted with deceitful desires, and put on their new self, which is created after the likeness of God. Beginning in verse 25, Paul supplies us with warnings of what deceitful human desires may produce in community. While at the same time painting a portrait of a new society that is shaped by and reflective of the image of God.

This passage calls us to create a healthy community but the path to achieve it is not by solely focusing on our behaviors toward each other. Throughout this passage Paul draws our attention to our relationship with the Lord –Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It, in fact, is the primary source that determines how we will relate with those around us. We are to stand against the Enemy of our souls, not frustrate or disappoint the Spirit, and align our character and actions with the pattern of Jesus' sacrificial love.

Don't give the devil a foothold	4:25-28
Don't grieve the Holy Spirit	4:29-31
Be imitators of God	5:1-2

### Quotations

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*"There is a difference between doing some particular just or temperate action and being a just or temperate man. Someone who is not a good tennis player may now and then make a good shot. What you mean by a good player is the man whose eye and muscles and nerves have been so trained by making innumerable good shots that they can now be relied on. They have a certain tone or quality which is there even when he is not playing....In the same way a man who perseveres in doing just actions gets in the end a certain quality of character. Now it is that quality rather than the particular actions which we mean when we talk of "virtue"...We might think that God wanted simply obedience to a set of rules: whereas He really wants people of a particular sort."*

Lewis

Christianity

C.S.

Mere

### Understanding & Application

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1. When am I tempted to not tell the truth?
2. What kind of opportunity is the devil finding in my anger?
3. Am I convicted about using anger to dominate or control others?
4. Who is someone in need I could be generous with?
5. What would be added or removed from my conversations if I determined to actively build up others?
6. God in Christ forgave me, is there someone the Lord wants me to likewise forgive?
7. What would motivate me to more directly seek to imitate God?

8. Where does Jesus want me to walk in costly sacrificial love like him?