

May 20, 2018

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Eph. 4:25 – 5:2

“Walk in Love – Part One”

- I. Greeting – 1:1-2
- II. God’s Eternal Plan for the Church **Explained** – 1:3 – 3:21
- III. God’s Eternal Plan for the Church **Applied** – 4:1 – 6:22
 - A. **What** – 4:1 – **Walk Worthy!**
 - B. **How** – 4:2-6:22
 - 1. Walk in Unity – 4:2-16
 - 2. Walk in Holiness (new life) – 4:17-24
 - 3. **Walk in Love – 4:25 – 5:2** (combination of walking in **unity** and walking in **holiness**)

Theme of the paragraph is in 5:1-2. Two commands: **1) Become imitators of God; 2) Walk in love**

Five examples / specific areas to walk in love (4:25-32):

- **Method** (what / how) = **Put off / Put on** (from walking in **holiness**)
- **Motive** (why) = “for,” “so that,” “just as” (from walking in **unity**)

a. **Put off** _____; **Put on** _____ (25)

b. **Put off** _____; **Put on** _____ (26-27)
[See 5-part sermon series: “Tough Questions Dealing with Anger”– Oct.-Nov. 2016]

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Pastor Paul believes this paragraph in Ephesians 4:25-5:2 (walking in love) builds upon the previous 24 verses (method = walking in holiness; motive = walking in unity). For each of the five examples the Apostle Paul gives in 4:25-32, what is the method and what is the motive?
4:25
4:26-27
4:28
4:29-30
4:31-32
2. What is a lie? Does God care what color it is? What are some different ways that people tell lies? List as many ways as you can think of. Why do people lie? What do they hope to gain from it?
3. Where did lies come from? (Jn. 8:44; Gen. 3) Does God ever tell lies? (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18) Do people who practice lying go to heaven? (Rev. 22:15) What does a lie do to the unity of the church?
4. How do we put off lies? How does focusing on our identity (beloved children) help us? We must actively replace sinful thoughts / attitudes / actions with righteous ones. In this case we put on speaking truth to one another. What does that mean? Where do we find this truth? What are you doing to fill your mind with truth, so you will have something to share with other members of the body? List different ways we can speak truth to one another. Get creative.
5. Does speaking truth mean we always tell people everything we are thinking? Does it mean that we only tell people the positive things that they want to hear? How does speaking truth promote unity and holiness in the church?
6. Paul says we should speak truth because we are members of one another. Earlier in Ephesians, he used the analogy of the human body. What would happen if different human body parts started lying to one another? (i.e., stomach doesn't tell brain that it's full). Act out what would happen with the specific scenarios that come to mind. Go ahead... have fun with this one.
7. Define anger. Does God ever get angry? What is the difference between righteous anger and sinful anger? List as many ways as you can think of that people express (or repress) sinful anger.
8. What does sinful anger do to relationships? What are we supposed to put on in its place if we have been sinfully angry toward someone? How quickly should we do that?
9. Why is it imperative that we repair relationships damaged by sinful anger as soon as possible? What happens (could happen) if we go to sleep angry? Who is standing there willing to add fuel to the fire? Have someone in your group act out the negative thought patterns a person has in the middle of the night when they are mad at someone and know they will talk to them the next day.
10. What does it mean to give the devil a place or opportunity (verse 27)? Since we no longer belong to him (Eph. 2:1-3; Jn. 8:44), how does meditating upon the fact that we now belong to our heavenly Father help us deal with anger? What are some of God's character qualities (attributes) we can imitate that enable us to work through problems and reconcile with people? How does walking in the Spirit enable us to overcome sinful anger? (see Gal. 5:16-26)
11. If you truly loved someone the way God does, would you ever lie to them or be sinfully angry toward them? Ask God to fill you to overflowing with His love for others. Let unity & holiness in the body of Christ motivate you to speak the truth and reconcile damaged relationships for the glory of God.