

June 3, 2018

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Eph. 4:25 – 5:2

**“Walk in Love – Part Three”**

- I. Greeting – 1:1-2
- II. Gods Eternal Plan for the Church **Explained** – 1:3 – 3:21
- III. Gods 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
      - a. **Put off Lying; Put on Speaking Truth** (25)
      - b. **Put off Sinful Anger; Put on Reconciliation** (26-27)
      - c. **Put off Stealing; Put on Hard Work and Generosity** (28)
      - d. **Put off \_\_\_\_\_ Words; Put on \_\_\_\_\_ Words** (29-30)

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**Method: Put off / Renew your mind**

- **Unwholesome words** = *sapros* = rank, foul, putrid, rotten, worthless, disgusting

**Method: Put on**

- Words that are “**good for edification**” (see Rom. 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:3, 12, 26)
- **According to the need of the moment**
- **What are some NEEDS that people have?**

**Motive:**

- **So that it will give grace to those who hear**
- **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption**
  - Eph. 1:13; 2 Cor. 1:22

**So what?**

## Discussion & Application:

1. How specifically have you grown over the past few weeks in the first three areas of walking in love that we studied (Stop lying; speak truth. Get rid of sinful anger; pursue reconciliation. Stop stealing; work hard and be generous)? How could you do better in each of those areas?
2. James 3 says we all struggle with our words. Why is that? Where do words come from? (see Mt. 15:17-20) What do words reveal about what is going on in our hearts?
3. When you see a fruit tree, what is the easiest way to tell what kind of fruit tree it is? What is the most obvious way people can see that we have been changed in our hearts by the power of God?
4. Paul writes to Christians and tells them to STOP letting even one unwholesome word come out of their mouth. What are unwholesome words? Not the obvious ones like “dirty four-letter words” (although they should never come out of the mouths of believers), what are the more subtle unwholesome words?
5. What is edification? How can words be used to edify? Tell a story about someone who used their words to build you up at a critical moment in your life. Now tell a story (without names) of a time when someone used their words to tear you down. Is the old saying true, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”?
6. Are you good at asking questions? Are you good at probing deep into the hearts and minds of people? How do we find out what people need so we can use our words that match the need of the moment? What are some good questions to ask?
7. Are you a good listener? Do you listen with your eyes, your ears, and your heart? If you are a pseudo-listener, how can you overcome that habit and become a good listener?
8. Since we are supposed to be imitators of God and walk in love (Eph. 5:1-2), how does God use His words to build us up? Give some examples in Scripture.
9. What is grace? What does it mean to use our words to give “grace” to those who hear? How can our words give grace?
10. What does the word “grieve” mean? The Jehovah’s Witnesses say that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force. Can you grieve an impersonal force? Who is the Holy Spirit?
11. Why do unwholesome words grieve the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus send Him? What is His role in our lives and how does He use words to impact us for good? What does it mean that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit? If we are all sealed by the Holy Spirit what does that guarantee for all of us?
12. Look at Eph. 5:18ff and Col. 3:16-17. What happens to a person’s mouth when they are filled with the Holy Spirit and/or when the Word of Christ is dwelling richly within them? Is that true of you when you gather with the people of God in worship? If not, why not?
13. What specific steps will you take this week to become a better listener? What questions will you ask to find out the needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ? What will you do if unwholesome words come out of your mouth? What verses will you memorize this week to renew your mind (and your mouth) and help you walk in love?