

June 10, 2018

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Eph. 4:25 – 5:2

“Walk in Love – Part Four”

- 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 Unwholesome Words; Put on Edifying Words** (29-30)

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ 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** = rank, foul, putrid, rotten, worthless, disgusting

Method: Put on

- Words that are “**good for edification**” (build people up)
- **According to the need of the moment.**

Motive:

- **So that it will give grace to those who hear**

Motive: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption

- **Grieve** (Is. 63:10; Ps. 78:36-41; 106:33; Acts 7:51)
- **Sealed** (cf. Eph. 1:13; 2 Cor. 1:22)

So what?

Discovering & Meeting Needs:

- Think of others first
- Develop powers of observation
- Ask good questions
- Show by body language & tone that you really care
- Discern their need, then choose words carefully that meet that need
- Be ready to go beyond words to meet their needs (time, money, effort)

Mini-Theology on the Holy Spirit:

- He has **intellect** (1 Cor. 2:10-13), **emotion** (Eph. 4:30), and **will** (1 Cor. 12:11). He is a **PERSON**.
- A **gift** from God to believers (Rom. 5:5; 1 Thess. 4:8)
- He is **God** (Acts 5:3-4)
- He is **eternal** (Heb. 9:14); **glorious** (1 Pet. 4:14; **holy** (Ps. 51:11); **omnipotent** (Gen. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:4); **omnipresent** (Ps. 139:7-10); **omniscient** (1 Cor. 2:10-11); **truth** (Jn. 14:17).
- He **creates** (Gen. 1:1-2; Job 33:4); **comforts** (Jn. 14:16, 26); **inspires God’s Word** (2 Pet. 1:20-21); **intercedes** (Rom. 8:26-27); **works miracles** (Mt. 12:28); **regenerates** (Jn. 3:5-8; Tit. 3:5); **resurrects** (Rom. 8:11); **sanctifies** (1 Pet. 1:2); **adopts** (Rom. 8:15); **baptizes** (1 Cor. 12:13); **convicts** (Jn. 16:8-11); **empowers** (Acts 1:8); **fills** (Eph. 5:18); **indwells** (Rom. 8:9-11); **produces fruit** (Gal. 5:22-23); **convicts** (Jn. 16:8-11).

Discussion & Application:

1. How specifically did your speech change this past week? Were you more sensitive to unwholesome words spoken by yourself and by others?
2. On a **scale of 1 to 10** (10 being the highest), how would you **rate yourself** at:
 - Thinking of others first. Taking the opportunity to make conversations about them rather than yourself. Wanting to know what is happening in their lives so you can serve them.
 - Observing body language, facial expressions, tone, etc., to find out how someone is doing
 - Asking questions that help you get to know people on a deeper level
 - Demonstrating genuine concern for others with your eyes, ears, body language, tone, and commitment of time
 - Discerning what is truly going on with others (not jumping to conclusions; not judging motives)
 - Being ready & willing to commit time, money, and effort to meet the needs of others
 - Choosing your words so that they are personal and meet specific needs in others
3. What is **edification**? How can words be used to edify? Are encouraging, positive words the only ones that build people up? How can words of rebuke, admonishment, and exhortation also be used to build people up?
4. **Read Acts 9:1-31**. What **principles** of edification can you find in this passage? How is **Ananias** an example of a man who edifies others? Given Saul's background, how powerful would the words, "Brother Saul," be to him? How did **Barnabas** use words to build up Saul in the eyes of others? How was the church being "built up" (v. 31)?
5. What is **grace**? What does it mean to use our words to give "grace" to those who hear? How can our words give grace?
6. **Read Acts 20:17-35**. What **principles** of using words to edify can you find in this passage? What truths was Paul consumed with communicating to others? How does **Paul** model the principles listed in question 2 above? According to verse 32, where should we point people to find words that will meet their deepest needs and build them up in the faith?
7. 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**? (See mini-theology)
8. According to **Is. 63:10**, how did the children of Israel grieve the Holy Spirit? (See also Ps. 78:36-41) 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?
9. 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? How are unwholesome words contrary to that?
10. 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?
11. 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?