

The Practical Walk of Faith

November 11, 2012

I. Our Text: Eph 4:25-5:5

25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. 26 BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. 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. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. 3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

II. The walk of faith

The Christian life is to be lived in faith, knowing who you are in Christ. Faith is applied practically in repentance and walking in sanctification. This is a process of spiritual growth as we learn how to put off the old and put on the new. We look at seven specific areas in this study

1. "Lay aside," and "Put on"

A. "Lay aside;" (similar terms; laying aside, put aside, putting aside)

Eph 4:22 lay aside the old self,

Eph 4:25 laying aside falsehood,

Col 3:8 put them all aside anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and abusive speech

Jas 1:21 putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness,

1 Pe 2:1 putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

Ro 13:12 lay aside the deeds of darkness

Heb 12:1 lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us,

B. "Put on,"

1) The armor of God

Ro 13:12 put on the armor of light.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God,

Eph 6:14 having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

1 Th 5:8 put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

2) The new self

Eph 4:24 put on the new self,

Col 3:10 put on the new self
Ro 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,

3) The fruit of the Spirit

Col 3:12 put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
Col 3:14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

2. Give an “opportunity to the devil,” and “Grieving the Holy Spirit”

A. “Don’t give an opportunity (foothold) to the devil”

The word rendered foothold literally means ‘place’, but it can signify ‘possibility, opportunity, or chance’ (cf. Acts 25:16). Accordingly, the verse may be translated, ‘Do not give the devil a chance to exert his influence’. In Romans 12:19 Paul uses the term in a similar way when he states, ‘Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room [lit. give a place or chance] for God’s wrath’. The apostle does not explain what kind of ‘foothold’ the devil can gain in the life of the believer, (From the Pillar New Testament Commentary)

It is literally, “And stop giving place.” “Place” is *topos* (τοπος), “any portion of space marked off from the surrounding territory.” Here it is used in the sense of “opportunity, power, occasion for acting.” (From Wuest's Word Studies)

The fire of anger, if not quenched by loving forgiveness, will spread and defile and destroy the work of God. According to Jesus, anger is the first step toward murder (Matt. 5:21–26), because anger gives the devil a foothold in our lives, and Satan is a murderer (John 8:44). Satan hates God and God’s people, and when he finds a believer with the sparks of anger in his heart, he fans those sparks, adds fuel to the fire, and does a great deal of damage to God’s people and God’s church. Both lying and anger “give peace to the devil” (Eph. 4:27). (From The Bible Exposition Commentary)

Neither give place to the devil. Satan waits for opportunity to get his foot in the door. The Greek present imperative means: Do not have the habit of giving place to Satan. Uncontrolled anger is an open door and an invitation for Satan to enter in to disrupt and corrupt the body. He can only hurt and harm as he finds a place in some life to do his evil work. (From the KJV Bible Commentary)

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

2 Cor 2:10-11 But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

1 Pe 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Jas 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

B. “Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit”

Gen 6:6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Psalm 78:40-41 How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness And grieved Him in the desert! Again and again they tempted God, And pained the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.

Mark 3:5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Acts 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;

3. Falsehood and Truth

A. Falsehood (speaking the lie); a lie; conscious and intentional falsehood (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

Jn 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.

Rom 1:25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever

2 Th 2:9-12 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

1 Jn 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1 Jn 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

Rev 21:27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Rev 22:15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

From The Bible Exposition Commentary

A lie is a statement that is contrary to fact, spoken with the intent to deceive. If I tell you it is noon, and then discover that my watch is wrong, I did not tell a lie. But if I gave you the wrong time so you would be late to a meeting and I would benefit from it that would be a lie.

We like to believe that we help people by lying to them, but such is not the case.

This does not mean that anybody who ever told a lie will go to hell, but rather that those whose lives are controlled by lies—they love lies and they make lies—are lost forever. The Christian's life is controlled by truth.

Note the reason Paul gave for telling the truth: We belong to each other in Christ. He urged us to build the body in love (Eph. 4:16) and he urged us to build the body in truth. "Speaking the

truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). As "members one of another" we affect each other, and we cannot build each other apart from truth. The first sin that was judged in the early church was the sin of lying (Acts 5:1-11).

From the Believer's Bible Commentary

Lying here includes every form of dishonesty, whether it is shading of the truth, exaggeration, cheating, failure to keep promises, betrayal of confidence, flattery, or fudging on income taxes.

B. Speaking the truth.

Pr 12:17 He who speaks truth tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit.

Eph 4:15 speaking the truth in love

Speak truth - for we are members of one another.

Eph 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (See also Eph 5:30; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Rom 12:5)

4. Anger and Being angry without sin,

A. Faces of Anger

- 1) Bitterness; Smoldering resentment, unwillingness to forgive, harsh feeling.
- 2) Wrath; Bursts of rage, violent passion, temper tantrums.
- 3) Anger; Grouchiness, animosity, hostility.
- 4) Clamor; Loud outcries of anger, bawling, angry bickering, shouting down of opponents.
- 5) Slander; Evil speaking, insulting language, abusive speech
- 5) Malice; Wishing evil on others, spite, meanness.

B. Sinful anger

Matthew 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

James 1:19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.

Proverbs 14:29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.

Proverbs 19:11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

From The Bible Exposition Commentary

It is possible to be angry and not sin, but if we do sin, we must settle the matter quickly and not let the sun go down on our wrath. "Agree with thine adversary quickly" (Matt. 5:25). "Go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone" (Matt. 18:15). The fire of anger, if not quenched by

loving forgiveness, will spread and defile and destroy the work of God. According to Jesus, anger is the first step toward murder (Matt. 5:21–26), because anger gives the devil a foothold in our lives, and Satan is a murderer (John 8:44). Satan hates God and God's people, and when he finds a believer with the sparks of anger in his heart, he fans those sparks, adds fuel to the fire, and does a great deal of damage to God's people and God's church. Both lying and anger "give peace to the devil" (Eph. 4:27).

C. Put on - "be angry and sin not;" "don't let the sun go down on your anger."

1) be angry and sin not. (from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary)

Anger is the emotion of instant displeasure and indignation arising from the feeling of injury done or intended, or from the discovery of offense against law.

The anger attributed to God in the NT is that part of God that stands opposed to man's disobedience, obstinacy (especially in resisting the gospel), and sin, and manifests itself in punishing the same.

Anger is not evil per se, being, as love, an original susceptibility of our nature. If anger were in itself sinful, how could God Himself be angry? Paul commands the Ephesians (Eph 4:26) that when angry they are not to sin. "Paul does not forbid the being angry in itself, and could not forbid it, because there is a holy anger, which is the 'spur to virtue,' as there is also a divine anger; . . . but the being angry is to be without sin" (Meyer, Com., ad loc.).

Anger is sinful when it rises too soon, without reflection; when the injury that awakens it is only apparent; when it is disproportionate to the offense; when it is transferred from the guilty to the innocent; when it is too long protracted and becomes revengeful (Mt 5:22; Eph 4:26; Col 3:8).

2) Do not let the sun go down on your anger (Eph 4:26)

Forgive (forgiving) each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (Eph 4: 31)

Mt 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Rom 12:18-21 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.