

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we might genuinely live out our faith. Matt. 5:16; Titus 1:16

## **Ephesians 4:25-32 - Practical Christianity**

Intro - The commandments of God are very controversial in our society. Louisiana lawmakers have said that God's laws (10 commandments) are to be posted in every classroom. Our own State Superintendent of education has ordered the Bible to be taught in school as a backdrop to understanding western civilization. O the hue & cry complaining about God's Commandments. While our society battles over the benefit of the Bible...God's law is just basic for the believer. God's law is the practical outworking of love <sup>Rom. 13:10b</sup> You cannot teach love without teaching God's law. And keeping God's Law is the litmus test of our love for others & our love for God. John 14:15; John 15:14; 1 John 5:3. Keeping God's law is also the outward evidence of our salvation - 1 John 2:3-4. We are not saved by keeping the law but by keeping the law we show that we are really saved. Our text today is about the practical outworking of our redemption... the demonstration of genuine salvation. Eph. 4:17-24 is about the believers new thinking and 4:25-32 is about the believers new acting. Thinking & acting go together...belief & behavior are two sides of the same coin. If you have been converted then you will begin to think right and then act right; your new beliefs will automatically generate new behaviors. These admonitions in 4:25-32 are just practical applications of God's law. 6 of the 10 commandments are used in these verses as the standard for Christian living. This passage is about practical Christianity.

1. Eph. 4:25 This is 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment
  - a. Falsehood / lying = *pseudos* (pseudo-science = fake science...fake truth)
    - i. Deceit, misrepresentation, exaggeration, half-truth, cover up, slander....
  - b. We are to be people of truth because God is a God of truth
    - i. God cannot lie Titus 1:2 Numbers 23:19a
    - ii. Jesus is the Truth - John 14:6 Eph. 4:21 Spirit of truth - John 16:13
  - c. Satan is the father of lies and lies are his language John 8:44b
    - i. Lies are the language of the day because....1 John 5:19b
      1. Spin is our societies sin - pseudo-truth/fake truth Jer. 9:4-6
  - d. We are to lay aside the lies (pseudo) and speak truth to one another - 4:25
    - i. This is a quote from Zech. 8:16-17
    - ii. Lying = hating Prov. 26:28 God hates lying - Prov. 6:16-19
    - iii. Truth = loving Eph. 4:15 1 Cor. 13:6
  - e. A Christian is someone who has gone from speaking lies to speaking truth
    - i. No pseudo - (Do not misrepresent your political opponents - don't spread lies about enemies)
2. Eph. 4:26-27 Sinful anger falls under the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment (Matt. 5:21-22)
  - a. A Christian is someone who has gone from sinful anger to righteous anger
  - b. Notice that anger is not a sin *"BE ANGRY, and do not sin..."*
    - i. The command is for our anger to be a righteous anger
    - ii. God is angry with the wicked every day - Psalm 7:11 NKJV
    - iii. Sin ought to make us angry - Ps. 97:10 don't accept sin; be angry at sin - Rom. 12:9
  - c. We are suppose to be angry at sin; not sin when we get angry.
  - d. A Christian is to be slow to anger and not easily angered James 1:19-20

- e. An anger that is left to fester gives the Devil and opportunity - 4:26-27
  - i. Psalm 37:8                      sinful anger seethes; righteous anger grieves
- f. A righteous anger does not seek revenge but gives the retaliation over to God
  - i. Rom. 12:18-19
- 3. Eph. 4:28                      this encompasses the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 10 commandments
  - a. A Christian is someone who has ceased stealing and starts working and giving
    - i. Stealing = *klepto* (Greek)
    - ii. Goes from a taker to a worker that is a giver.
  - b. We are not to covet what God has given our neighbor - #10
  - c. We are not to steal what God has given our neighbor - #8
  - d. We are work - #4                      (Ex. 20:8-9)
  - e. We are to work so we can give something to our neighbor - 4:28
  - f. This is basic Christian character
- 4. Eph. 4:29
  - a. When God gives a sinner a new heart, He also given him a new tongue
  - b. The tongue can bring life or death to a person - Prov. 18:21    Prov. 15:4
    - i. Our words can build up or tear down
    - ii. "cut downs" are common...but not for the Christian.                      Matt. 5:22
  - c. You can tell a true Christian by their communication                      Matt. 12:34
  - d. Col 4:6                                      James 3:9-10
- 5. Eph. 4:30
  - a. The Holy Spirit resides within the redeemed. He is the seal of our salvation
  - b. Is your heart a happy home for the Holy Spirit?
  - c. Sin never just affects yourself. It hurts those around you....ripple effects
  - d. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit                                      Gen. 6:5-6
  - e. When a Christian lies, has sinful anger, takes from others, doesn't work or give, and speaks unkindly to others .... it grieves the Holy Spirit.
    - i. Sin brings grief and strife - Is. 63:9-10
  - f. The Christian heart should be a happy home for the Holy Spirit?
- 6. Eph 4:31-32
  - a. 4:31 - Six things to eliminate
    - i. Bitterness...wrath....anger...clamor...slander.....malice
  - b. 4:32 - Three things to implement
    - i. Kindness.....tender heart.....forgiveness                      Col. 3:12-13
- This is all just basic Christian living.                      This is just practical Christianity
  - Don't lie about God, about ourselves or about others.    Be people of truth with no pseudo
  - Get angry about the right things. We are not have a selfish or sinful anger.
  - Don't be a taker.    Become a worker AND a giver.                      No klepto
  - Your tongue will tell whose side you are one.                      A Christians words are wholesome
  - A Christian strives to make a happy home for the Holy Spirit
  - Basic Christianity is that those who have been born again have a brand new life.    The old bitterness/wrath/slander have gone, and kindness, tenderness and forgiveness have come.
  - If you haven't been changed then you haven't been converted. True conversion is when God takes lawbreakers and then writes His law on their hearts, and they begin to love God and other by living our God's holy law.