

Ephesians Series

Lesson #174

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Anger, Sin, and the Devil

Ephesians 4:26–27



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK & WARFARE OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 4:25, “For this reason, because you have already put off the lie, *let each one of you speak [the] truth with his neighbor*, because we are members of one another.” ~RD

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Members of One Another

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph. 4:16, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Observations on the Passage

The section from Eph. 4:25–5:21 has 27 imperatives (plus several imperatival participles)

8 more from Eph. 5:22–6:9

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***In the body of Christ there is an interdependence and a mutual responsibility which we covered in the previous section. The “one another” responsibilities within our new family, the family of the body of Christ, can only function on genuine humility.**

Keep these in mind:

- a. We all have sin natures. Sin natures are neither diminished nor removed when we become believers in Christ. At salvation we are saved from the penalty of sin, but it is only as we grow spiritually that we can realize what it means to be saved from the power of sin in our own lives.**

**Rom. 6:11, “So you too consider yourselves dead to sin,
but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”**

b. We only get to that point of reckoning ourselves dead to sin as we walk by the Spirit.

c. These commands are not legalistic, external standards, because they address the spiritual life of the inner man first, and the external then follows.

d. In each of our lives we grow in different ways related to the trends of our sin natures, our personalities, and a number of other problems.

e. We dare not forget how deeply rooted our habit patterns are in sin—habits of thought and habits of acts. Change doesn't come overnight, but apart from a passion to internalize the Word of God and walk by the Spirit, it will not happen.

f. This passage provides us with those standards for us to live up to. They are not evidences of our salvation status, or even our spiritual growth, because in some ways these virtues and behaviors can be imitated to a small degree by an unbeliever.

2. Eph. 4:25 provides the general framework of our role as members of the body of Christ, which relates this next section to what was taught in Eph. 4:1–24.

- **We are to be diligent to maintain unity: self-centered sinfulness destroys unity**
- **God gave gifted leaders to teach the Word to equip us for ministry, Eph. 4:11–12**
- **We are to grow beyond spiritual childhood, Eph. 4:14**
- **We are to grow spiritually in the body of Christ, Eph. 4:16**
- **We are to no longer think, talk, and live as the unbelieving Gentiles around us live.**
- **There is a different code of conduct for the believer, in Christ.**
- **Our life is based on truth, and truth is what should control our thinking and our conversations. Eph. 4:21, 25**

3. The structure through Eph. 5:1 is significant.

Verses 26–27

Positive: Be angry

Negative:

- a. do not sin
- b. do not let the sun go down on your wrath
- c. do not give the devil an opportunity.

Verse 28

Negative: Let the stealer steal no more

Positive: Let him labor, working with his hands what is good

Verse 29

Negative: Let no corrupt word come out of your mouth

Positive: But speak in terms of what is necessary for edification, to impart grace to the hearers

Verses 30–31

Negative: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit

Positive: Put away all bitterness, wrath anger, clamor, evil speaking with all malice

Verse 32

Positive: Be kind to one another, by graciously forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

5:1 Be imitators of God (conclusion)

Next section seems separated by the command to walk in love as Christ has loved

Eph. 4:26, “*Be angry, and do not sin*”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

Eph. 4:27, “nor give place to the devil.” ~NKJV

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ὀργίζω *orgizō*

2 plur pres passive imperative “to be angry;” LN

“to be full of anger, to be furious,”

This comes from the Septuagint (LXX)

translation of Psalm 4:4

Psa. 4:4, “Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah”

רגז *ragaz*

qal imper masc plur

“to quake, tremble, be excited, to fear. Rarely means anger.”

Ross: “it essentially means to tremble in fear and dismay” in response to observing God’s goodness to faithful believers.

1. One problem in some translations is that the translation is put as a condition, *if you are angry, even if you are angry, if you have cause to be angry, or *in your anger,* or *though you are angry.**

These are more of an interpretation, because there is no grammatical basis for it. In fact, they lack the conditional particles or participles.

**Remember the “law of spandex”:
just because you can wear spandex, doesn’t mean you
should!**

Biblical interpretation:

**Though there may be some rare possibility that something
could mean one thing, it doesn’t mean that something
does mean that based on context and other grammatical
factors.**

2. Part of the problem is that in vs. 31 it says to put away all anger. This only has the appearance of a contradiction.

Eph. 4:31, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Col. 3:8, “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.”

1 Tim. 2:8, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

James 1:19, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

James 1:20, “for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Eph. 4:26, “*Be angry, and do not sin*”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

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ἁμαρτάνω *hamartanō*

2 plur pres act impera to sin; to miss the mark, to fall short; “it denotes a conscious and deliberate false step as opposed to an inadvertent mistake.” ~Hoehner

3. From this we learn that anger in and of itself is not necessarily sinful, it is what we do with the emotion. People often act on the anger, either with sins of the tongue, lashing out, yelling, screaming, insulting—gossip, slander, maligning others.

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4. Nurturing anger is the way of the fool.

Eccl. 7:9, “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.”

5. Nurturing anger culturally destroys a nation.

Amos 1:11, “Thus says the LORD: ‘For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword, and cast off all pity; His anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever.’ ”

6. Anger hinders prayer.

1 Tim. 2:8, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;”

7. Anger leads to further sins and self-induced misery.

Prov. 22:8, “He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, and the rod of his anger will fail.”

8. Many people are deeply angry. And this anger destroys relationships with others.

Prov. 21:19, “Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.”

Prov. 27:4, “Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?”

And faults are remembered and held against a person for some time.

9. When we give in to the anger, we quit walking by the Spirit, and are controlled by the sin nature.

By yielding to any temptation from the sin nature, we give the devil the opportunity to gain an advantage.

1 Pet. 5:6, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

1 Pet. 5:7, “by casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 Pet. 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Pet. 5:9, “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”