

Connect

Commenting on Ephesians 4:25 (circa 1558, in Geneva), John Calvin said, "What the world calls prudence, that St. Paul calls lying." This means, what the world thinks is clever, Paul believes is deceptive.

Now, more than 400 years later, would you agree that Calvin's statement still rings true—for example in: politics, academia, business, and the Church?

Verses - Ephesians 4:25-27 (CSB)

CONTEXT: *From the beginning of Chapter 4, Paul has been teaching that each Christian can and should reject his old way of life, and embrace a new way of Godly living, like Christ. And as each Christian changes in this way, all are united to form one body, with each member serving and supporting the others.*

Paul continues this teaching in today's reading, Ephesians 4:25-27.

25 Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his
neighbor, because we are members of one another. 26 Be angry and do
not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and don't give the
devil an opportunity.

Study

1. At the end of verse 25, Paul writes, " because we are members of one another." What do you think he means? Paul says "we," meaning that both he and his readers are members. Are there any other members? If so, who? (Ephesians 4:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Colossians 1:18, 24)

2. Who does he mean by "neighbor?" (Galatians 6:10)

DISCUSS:

1. In verse 25, is Paul simply teaching that a member should not tell lies to others? Or is there more to it than that? (See "Connect" above.) Is it OK for Christians to use euphemisms? Or to try to be politically correct? Where is the line? (1 Timothy 3:2a)

2. Is it possible for anyone (other than God) to be angry without sinning? How about for a long time without sinning?

APPLY:

Paul writes, "…don't let the sun go down on your anger." How can you apply this wisdom to your relationships with members of your family, church, school, or company?

Share

Why is it so difficult to overcome anger as it can easily cause us to stumble? If you have overcome anger, and you feel comfortable to share, how did you finally manage to do so?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that God will open the eyes of our heart to see how dangerous it is for us to be too clever or too angry with one another.
- Pray that he will help us to set our deceitfulness and anger aside, and help us to learn to speak truth and to forgive and to love, particularly those who are fellow members of our family and our church and our community.