MESSAGE OUTLINE



From Out-of-Focus to In-Focus

SCRIPTURE - Ephesians 4:25-32

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

INTRODUCTION

"It is not what you say, but how you say it." -> **"It is not what you read, but how you interpret it."**

Interpretation is key in how you understand something, but also allow someone else to tell you what it means.

There is only one way you can understand what the Bible says: through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:10, 14

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Christlikeness is impossible without His Spirit first in you.

DON'T FORGET WHY

Paul has been throughout this entire letter has focused on one major theme: unity, called the Church.

Ephesians 2:16 *...that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

Ephesians 3:4,6 *The mystery... that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.*

Ephesians 4:4-6 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Unity is the biggest struggle for us as Christians.

Unity does not necessarily mean uniformity, it's from pressure of rules not of the presence of the Spirit.

We are hyper-inward focused, and believe that the Spirit is simply God living in us as individuals, and that's it.

To experience the Holy Spirit, you need to experience Him within the Church! That is where He dwells.

You can't create unity. Unity comes from the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Is your goal unity? Are you committed to the people around you?

Hebrews 10:25*, don't neglect the fellowship of believers.*

These are your family here. The most practical way you can commit to this family is to regularly serve them.

Being in Christ, are you serving your family? Are you actively serving this church?

Because if you love His body, you will serve His church.

SIN & THE DEVIL (vv.25-29)

v.25 comes from **Zechariah 8:14-16**, about the restoration of Israel. But Paul says this is the Church. The Church is where God dwells, by His Spirit.

As we put off lying, not simply replacing it with truth, but going beyond that so we foster unity within the family of believers.

Let me remind you of who you are imitating when you lie.

Jesus says, *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.* **John 8:44**

Who do you want to imitate? The Father of Lies or your Father in Heaven?

vv.26-27 is from **Psalm 4:4,** *Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah*

Judas is a prime example. He showed anger about the fragrant oil that was poured out on Jesus' head.

But when you think about it, from the outside, it might not seem that Judas' complaint was that far off.

Do you know why Judas was upset but others were not?

He didn't have the Spirit of God but the other disciples did. (John 14:17)

John 13:2 *...the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him.*

Unresolved anger breeds murder in the heart and wars among us.

Matthew 5:21-22a *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment..."*

When was the last time you were angry? Was it because you felt your anger was justified? Maybe so..

But is it still festering? The Bible teaches that when it festers, the devil has a foothold in your heart.

But this is what Jesus says, **Matthew 7:17,** *A good tree gives good fruit, but a rotten tree gives evil fruit.*

Which tree best describes you? Which do you want to be?

v.28 Notice Paul's "put on" isn't just to stop stealing, but to bless one who would be in the position to steal.

We are to give even to thieves and robbers.

Jesus said, *whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.* **Matthew 5:41.** Same principle.

The last time someone took something that did not belong to you? Did you demand it back or ask them to pay for it? That's not what Jesus teaches.

Lk 6:30 *Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back.*

Are you living by this principle?

v.29 The word corrupt in the verse, in the Greek comes from the word to rot.

You get into an argument with someone and you decide to retaliate.

But is that what Jesus taught? No.Luke 6:28 *Bless those who curse you...*

So the question is, do you want to be one who blesses others or one who hurts them?

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE END TIMES

v.30 We might think that when we sin, the Holy Spirit feels a little sad about what we did.

Ephesians 4:1-4 *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling...*

When we sin against each other, we grieve Him, the Unifier between us all, the Spirit of God.

But the good news, and the day the devil fears, is the day of redemption that we are headed towards.

THE END TIME

Some see the day of redemption as the moment we are glorified, and made perfect, that is we as individuals.

The future Day is about our unification as God's people not about you becoming a holy super person.

Revelation chs.19, 21, John ch.1 and 1 John ch.3, Romans ch.8 - a single flock belonging to the Shepherd.

Their understanding is the day the Messiah comes and restores all things. So that they can live with Him, and He with them, in the coming Kingdom He rules. This is His story, not yours.

Isaiah 63 *8 He said, "Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me"; and so he became their Savior. 9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. 10 Yet they rebelled and* ***grieved his Holy Spirit****. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.*

And because of their rebellion, the Israelites could not enter the promised land.

Something new is happening. Now, because they and all believers in Christ are sealed for this day.

All you have for your holiness is in Him and is Him.

CHRISTOLOGY & SALVATION

vv.31-32

The word for kind is the word *chrēstos*. Which is only one letter off from *Christos*, meaning Christ.

How can we be Christlike? (In the meantime.)

Christlikeness here is to **be tenderhearted** which means to be sensitive towards each other, forgiving them.

What it means to be **Christlike** is simpler than we thing:

How? John 15:12-13 *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

INVITATION

All of us struggle with sin in our lives. We do not need to condemn ourselves or others.

Proverb 24:16-18 *For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.*

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **Romans 8:1**

Believe in Jesus, and you will be saved. He will make all things new.. me, you, and all who believe in Him.

Jesse Mark Cesario
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