

The Holy Spirit & Me Series
The Spirit-Filled Person – Walks In Purity (Ephesians 4:17-32)

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Introduction

1. This morning Paul has been telling us that Christians must put off the old life as they would a coat for which we have no further use. Here, he speaks of the things that must be banished in our lives and in contrast what we should be full with.

I. The Application (25-32)

a. Case In Point: Lying (v25)

- i. A lie is a statement that is contrary to fact, spoken with the intent to deceive. Satan is a liar (John 8:44) and wants us to believe God is a liar (Gen 3:1).
- ii. Whenever we speak truth God works and when we lie Satan goes to work.
- iii. The reason we tell the truth is because we belong to the body of Christ and we are meant to build not destroy. (Eph 4:16; Acts 5:1-11)

b. Case In Point: Anger (v26-27)

- i. Anger is an emotional arousal caused by something that displeases us. Anger is not sin itself. For God can be angry (Deut 9:8,20; Ps 2:12; Num 25:4; Jer 4:8; 12:13).
- ii. Anger is compared to a “kindled” fire. As our anger smolders it becomes malice but when this same anger suddenly burst forth and destroy we call this wrath.
- iii. It is possible to be angry and not sin but if we do we must settle the matter quickly (Mat 5:25; 18:15). The fire of anger is quenched by loving forgiveness.
- iv. Remember anger is the first step toward murder (Mat 5:21-26). We should follow Proverbs 15:1.

c. Case In Point: Stealing (v28)

- i. Stealing was rampant in the ancient world. God has given us the right to own property and we should use it for His glory.
- ii. Just as Satan is a liar and a murderer, he is also a thief (John 10:10). The best reason for us not to steal is so we can give to those who are in need.
- iii. If we steal we hurt others. If we work we help others.

d. Case In Point: Corrupt Communication (v29)

- i. The mouth and the heart are connected (Mat 12:34). Our mouths should change from “cursing and bitterness” to confessing “Jesus Christ is Lord”.
- ii. The remedy is to make sure our hearts are full of blessings. We should fill our hearts with Christ’s love so that only truth and purity will come out.

e. Case In Point: Bitterness (30-32)

- i. Bitterness refers to a settled hostility that poisons the whole inner person. Wrath and anger lead to brawling (clamor) or blasphemy (evil speaking). Paul gives us reasons to avoid bitterness...
 1. First, it grieves the Holy Spirit. We should have love, joy and peace.
 2. It grieves the Son of God who died for us.
 3. It grieves God the Father who forgave us when we obeyed Jesus Christ.
- ii. Forgiveness is the key to overcoming bitterness. Learning how to forgive and forget is one of the great secrets to a happy Christian life.
- iii. Paul sums it all up by telling us that we should treat others as Jesus has treated us.