Intro:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

• We are going to spend the next 10 lessons and sermons dealing with the walk of a Christian. We will be dealing with every part of the Christian walk. From dealing with the outside world to dealing with the family structure. You may be surprised what you have been taught from someone verses what the bible has to say on some things.

I. Believers need to stop lying – 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

a. Accepting the truth is harder than telling a lie

b. Lying will always have a hidden agenda

• Lying will do three things. 1) It will misrepresent truth. 2) It will deceive a person with wrong intent. 3) it will build wrong relationships.

II. Believers need to put away anger – 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

a. There is wrong anger that is not justified

b. There is right anger that is justified

• There is anger that brood’s selfishness and hatred (racist, separatist, communism, etc.). And there is anger that wants to protect and guard (Mom guarding her kids, dads protecting his family, a soldier protecting his country).

III. Believers need to work and not steal – 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

a. It is immoral to be lazy

• We are not talking about someone who procrastinates, that is bad, but I know a lot of people who put things off and they work very hard at their jobs. No, this type of laziness is where you won’t work, they depend on others to take care of them (like the government), they will not take care of themselves, but instead lie about why they can’t work. I know what I’m talking about because is have family that does this exact same thing. They are stealing from people who really need our help. I feel if our government would crack down on this fraud, we could fix our homelessness immediately.

° 25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. Proverbs 21:25

b. Holding back can be a form of stealing

• I had to think about this for a minute, but I think I’m biblically sound on it. God said in Mal. 3:10 if you hold back your tithe or giving to him You are robbing God, that means you are stealing from God. It isn’t what I’m saying but what God says. You are stealing from the blessing God wants to give you.

° 8 Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. Malachi 3:8-10

IV. Believers are not to have a corrupt mouth – Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

a. You don’t have to cuss to be corrupt

• I’m not saying that cussing is alright, just the opposite. But what I’m saying is that we read this and go stay so we should not cuss, when in fact Paul had just told us that lying is also corrupt. So, before we going as start condemning the swear words or dirty jokes, just remember God sees lying just as sinful as cussing.

° 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices Colossians 3:9

b. We should encourage each other with words of confidence

• Believers are to use words that will build up the body, not tear it down. We are to edify the body of Christ, glorify the name of Jesus, and to use words of humiliating criticism to each other. Building up the body of Christ is what we are called to do, not tear it down with lies and half-truths.

° 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:18, 19

V. Believers are not to grieve the Holy Spirit – 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

a. This is a commandment not an opinion

• We cause the Holy Spirit pain when we allow sin to rule our lives and not Him. When we behave in an immoral way that is not in line with His fruit Gal. 5:22). Remember it took one fruit to mess things up, and it takes one fruit of the Spirit to clean it up.

° 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

b. Because we are sealed for the day of redemption

• This verse says nothing about once being sealed the Holy Spirit takes away your right to Free Will. It just says the Holy Spirit seals you. You are the only one that can break the seal covenant the Holy Spirit has with you. No amount of suffering, nothing can separate you from God, except your free will.

° 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:7-10

VI. We are to put away the negative that hold us back – 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

a. We are to put away bitterness (pikria) – harshness, resentment, bitter. A man who is bitter is resentful, cold, harsh with their words, unpleasant to be around.

b. We are to put away wrath (thumos) – violence, resentment, wrath. Wrath is the physical part to anger. We build up anger but unleash it through violence.

c. We are to put away anger (orge) – While wrath and anger may be twin cousins, none less there are some differences. We can have a righteous anger, but it must be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God.

d. We are to put away clamor (krauge) – arguing and quarreling without cause. It means to use insulting words, to use boisterous behavior to make one superior.

e. We are to put away malice (kakia) – evil, maliciousness, naughtiness, wickedness. This is not talking about a two-year-old being onery. This is talking about an adult being evil at work, home, or school, etc.

VII. We are to set some positives for success before us – 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

a. We are to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving

• These three are in sync with one another. While different in the work with the church, they can’t be separated. Their role in a Christians life is a must in order to fulfill the Great Commission. Never will you, or will you ever find Christ telling the Christian to make exceptions to these three things. Never.

° 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8

b. Because Christ set the example for us to follow

• No matter how much wrong a person has done against us, it doesn’t even come close to what Christ has done for us. So, true forgiveness comes with repentance. Being ashamed for what you did and asking God to forgive you. God does not ask anymore from you. True forgiveness comes with repentance.

° 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Matthew 18:21, 22