



## Eph 4:25–5:2 Part.2

**Read again**, the passage that we began studying last week...

Ask the Lord to open your eyes, that you may behold wonderful things from His Word (Ps 119:18), and that you would receive His Word with humility—putting it into practice in your daily life (Jas 1:21–22).

### Passage:<sup>1</sup>

25Therefore, <sup>a</sup>laying aside falsehood, <sup>b</sup>SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are <sup>c</sup>members of one another.

26<sup>a</sup>BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27and do not <sup>a</sup>give the devil <sup>1</sup>an opportunity.

28He who steals must steal no longer; but rather <sup>a</sup>he must labor, <sup>b</sup>performing with his own hands what is good, <sup>c</sup>so that he will have *something* to share with <sup>1</sup>one who has need.

29Let no <sup>1a</sup>unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for <sup>b</sup>edification <sup>2</sup>according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

30<sup>a</sup>Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, <sup>1</sup>by whom you were <sup>b</sup>sealed for the day of redemption.

31<sup>a</sup>Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be <sup>b</sup>put away from you, along with all <sup>c</sup>malice.

32<sup>a</sup>Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, <sup>b</sup>just as God in Christ also has forgiven <sup>1</sup>you.

## Chapter 5

1<sup>a</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

2and <sup>a</sup>walk in love, just as Christ also <sup>b</sup>loved <sup>1</sup>you and <sup>c</sup>gave Himself up for us, an <sup>d</sup>offering and a sacrifice to God <sup>2</sup>as a <sup>e</sup>fragrant aroma.

### Context:

In verses 25–29 we saw how Paul practically demonstrated the “put-off, put-on” process as he applied it to four sins in particular: lying, anger, stealing, and unwholesome speech.

The reason why we are to lay aside these sins and replace them with righteousness, is because of who we are in Christ. (4:17 → “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk...” 4:20 → “But you did not learn Christ in this way...”).

The section in 4:17 resumes the thought that Paul started in 4:1 → “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...”

The “calling with which we have been called,” is a reference to the Gospel. Eph 4–6 then is the practical outworking in our lives, of the truths that Paul proclaimed in Eph 1–3.

Paul’s repeated point in Ephesians 4 is that our relationship with Christ will inevitably impact our relationship with one another (4:2–3, 11–16, 25–29).

But, as we come to 4:30, Paul seems to emphasise other side of that coin: Our relationship with one another will have an impact on our relationship with Christ.

1. How does Paul introduce this change of emphasis (v30)?

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## Exploring the Text:

As you answer the following questions, please take the time to read all the **cross references** at the end of each question. These are provided to enrich your study process.

- Scan through the book of Ephesians, paying attention to the verses listed below. What role/ purpose(s) of the Holy Spirit does Paul highlight in this letter? The work of the Holy Spirit is explicitly referenced in: **1:13; 2:18, 22; 3:5, 16; 4:3-4, 30; 5:18-19; 6:17-18.**

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- What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be "grieved?" Is this just "causing sadness," or is it possibly something more? (cf. "deeply grieved" in **Matt 18:31**, "hurt" in **Rom 14:15**).

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- Based on the immediate context (**Eph 4:25-5:2**), how do we grieve the Holy Spirit? How does **4:30** fit into the flow of Paul's argument?

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*Aside...* The fact that the Holy Spirit might be "grieved" means that He is a person who enters into *personal* relationship with us. This is a strong arguments against all errant systems of theology that view the Holy Spirit as nothing more than the 'impersonal force' of God.

- Verse 31** repeats many of the themes that were already highlighted in **vv25-29**, what is the purpose and significance of the repetition?

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- 6. If salvation in Christ, is the reason why it is *possible* for us to lay aside the old self (4:1, 20–21), what is it that ought to make us want to lay aside the old self, and put on the new self? (4:32–5:1)

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- 7. What does it mean to “forgive just as God has forgiven us?” Does it mean that we should wait until someone confesses their sin against us, much like God does not forgive us until we come to Him in repentance and faith? (cf. Jn 6:44; Rom 8:29–32, 12:18; Eph 2:1–5; Titus 3:3–7)

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- 8. According to 5:2, what is the underlying principle that is supposed to motivate all our interactions with one another? (cf. Col 3:14)

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### Cross References:

- 9. **Read:** Gal 5:16–26

In this section, Paul presents two possible pathways that we might follow: The way of the Spirit and the way of the flesh. What deeds and attitudes are representative of a life given to the flesh?

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- 10. What deeds and attitudes are representative of a life yielded to the Holy Spirit?

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11. What is the realm in which these fruit find expression? To what aspect of someone's life would we look, to tell if they are living according to the flesh or according to the Holy Spirit?

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12. In light of Gal 5:16–26, what do your personal relationships say about your own life? Is your life governed by the flesh, or by the Spirit of God? Why?

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13. **Read:** Luke 6:35–36

Paul says that we should be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, does that mean that we don't have to be kind to, or forgive, unbelievers? Why/Why not?

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14. **Read:** Matt 18:21–35

What does Jesus say will be the outcome for those who refuse to forgive others?

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15. **Read:** 1 Cor 13:1–8a

As you read through the characteristics of love, that Paul lists in these verses, how are you failing to show love in your interactions with those around you?

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### For Further Reflection:

16. To which of the "deeds of the flesh," listed in 4:31, are you most susceptible? Under what kind of circumstances are you most likely to commit these sins? How can you practically restructure your life to "make no provision for the flesh with regard to its lusts?" (cf. Rom 13:14)

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17. Are there people in your life against whom you harbour an attitude of unforgiveness? Think of all that God has forgiven you and commit to living from this moment onwards, with a commitment to forgive just as God has forgiven you. Are there any practical steps you can take to restore relations that have been damaged by your unforgiveness?

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18. How have you been confronted with your own need for God's grace as a result of this study?

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**Notes:**

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