

Monday, 7 September 2015

Ephesians 4:26-32 [1]

**Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. 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. 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. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Can't you hear Paul muttering to himself: "While I'm on the subject of falsehood and truth, there are a couple of other things I need to mention? How about anger and sin?"

He's telling me that there is an anger which is not sin, so I need to be aware of the anger that **is** sin. It is my belief that the difference lies in the reason and motivation for my anger. When the cause is an action of disrespect for my Lord and Savior, I am called to appropriate anger and action. But when, as is frequently the case, the cause is my wounded pride, it is sin.

He is also telling me that there is a time limit on anger--no feuds that go on and on, those give opportunity to the devil.

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Tuesday, 9 September 2015

Ephesians 4:26-32 [2]

**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.**

Think about this, John. You are supposed to share the fruit of your very own labor with others--not the fruit of another individual's labor.

I wonder: Does that include supporting increased state welfare spending? Is that a form of sharing the fruit of

others when I should be shouldering more of the burden on my own?

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Wednesday, 9 September 2015

Ephesians 4:26-32 [3]

**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.**

Proverbs 15:26 *The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure.*

Proverbs 16:24 *Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*

Luke 4:22 *And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"*

'Nuf said?

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Thursday, 10 September 2015

Ephesians 4:26-32 [4]

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

There are times when someone comes to me for advice and I respond with the best I can offer, based upon experience and knowledge of the Word. And that ingrate not only does not follow my advice, he does not even consider it.

How do you expect the Holy Spirit, when I ignore, refuse to consider and deliberately disobey, the one who has been sent by the Logos, to lead and guide me into all truth? Is "grieve" too weak a translation?

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Friday, 11 September 2015

Ephesians 4:26-32 [5]

**Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.**

Hmmm, you left out gossip, Paul. No, wait, I can't recall any bit of juicy gossip coming out of my mouth that was not driven by malice. In fact, this list of *verboden* behavior is all tinged with malice.

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*Saturday, 12 September 2015*  
*Ephesians 4:26-32 [6]*

***Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.***

Yup, should have known, Paul concludes this tightly packed set of instructions on Godly living with a reminder that I am to love my neighbor. I think he is telling me that the second Great Commandment is founded on the way I live out the hope that lies within me.

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*Lord's Day, 13 September 2015*

*Psalm 119:53*

***Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law.***

The hot indignation that should seize me is my own deliberate turning my back on Your Law! Help me, Lord, help me, that Your Word would be come the very centerpiece of my life. Help me to live without swerving to the right or the left; that my eyes would always seek You in every aspect of creation. Help me, Lord, help me,

## *VOICES TOGETHER*

*Daily Meditations from the Psalms*



*September 7-13, 2015*

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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