

A Life of Service... Tell the truth  
Ephesians 4:25

When it comes to clothing and fashion I am truly and deliberately not with it.  
As my family knows, I on purpose don't care and chose to wear what is not trendy.  
I enjoy resisting what others think is cool and fashionable looking.  
I prefer function over fashion.  
And like some men and women in this room we enjoy being out of style.  
In fact, what I often chose to wear or not to wear is my way of making a statement.  
WI, Conservative, American Flag

What are you wearing? Not talking about clothing.  
I'm talking about the practical aspect of your Christianity.  
We are told to put on virtues. That is not very fashionable with the world.  
These next few months we are in Ephesians and it is very practical.  
Christian life is not just about learning some doctrines about God. It is not about being a good or better person. It is the union of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is the union of what we are (the new life in Christ) and what we believe (sound Biblical doctrine) and how we are to behave (Christian ethics).

PRAY

When people get married, they are not just committing to a new life, they have a new life.  
And some can approach that in some fear of sadness. As though it is a ball and chain.  
Under new management. Wrong view of marriage  
When I got married I had a new life I was living. I was a new person, different.  
Wedding picture And you can see it in my face  
I declared to all that I was no longer single or was no longer going to live the single life.  
I replaced ..... with .....

This is what Ephesians has been talking about in Chapter 4  
As Christians we are under new management, a new life.  
We once belonged to the world and to the bondage of Satan.  
Out of a renewed mind and new life come these actions:  
Replace lies with telling the truth  
Replace anger with forgiveness  
Replace stealing with giving  
Replace foul talk with edification  
Replace forms of anger with kindness  
The supreme virtue is Love: imitating Christ

The Spirit filled life- a new man in righteousness and holiness.  
These virtues are all possible by yielding to the Holy Spirit  
Paul handles each with a negative "don't" or "put off"  
followed by a positive "do" or "put on the new man by...."  
Take off this vice and put on this virtue.  
And then he gives a reason to motivate or support the virtue.

Today we are looking at Eph. 4:25  
So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. NLT  
A renewed mind leads to replacing lies with telling the truth.

It is interesting that speech and the use of our words are covered in 3 different verses 25, 29, 31  
Our words and tongue are a powerful thing. Words can bless or blame,  
it can corrupt or commend a person. It can change the course of nations and families.  
Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Prov. 18:21  
We will be looking and the use of our words a few more times.

#### So stop telling lies.

When we look at the beginning of history, the first sin of man was the result of a lie.

Gen 3 You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

The devil whispered the lie about the character and being of God.

2 cor 11:3 as the serpent deceived Eve cunning and clever lies.

Lying causes such misery and shame, lack of trust, heartbreak suffering.

Damage to friendships, marriages, churches.

#### Why do people lie?

Every person on the planet at times is an award winning liar.

We need to state that all have lied.

First: People lie because it is a heart issue.

"There is no one righteous, not even one .... Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit" Rom. 3:10-13

#### People lie to avoid trouble.

Sometimes it is very trivial and does not seem big.

Knowing that you will not be able to follow through in actions to the words you speak is a lie.

There are times we lack or fail in our commitments and try cover it up by a lie.

Maybe you tell your spouse that you will be home at a certain time and yet you know in reality and in your heart that you are not going to make it.

That can lead to casting blame on something else, leading to another lie.

"the bus is making us late"

As a child to stole Fruit stripe gum.

Peter lied when he was challenged in Luke 22:55-60

Or some people do something foolish and try to cover it up "I didn't say that"

Maybe you have developed a habit of lying just to avoid trouble or to protect yourself.

The bible states it simple and boldly: Stop it.

#### People lie to deceive.

Sometimes it is for the benefit of themselves.

Acts 5:1-4 Ananias and Sapphira. He lied because he wanted the Apostles to think he was great for giving money to them, yet he was holding back some cash for his own benefit. This was not just deceiving the leaders of the church but mainly against God.

This violated the truthfulness of the standard Christians are called to.

Or in the OT Abraham lied about his wife thinking it would protect his life.

10 commandments - Exodus 20.16. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

We are to be honest and truthful people. The command is not about lying per se, but about proceedings in court, particularly false accusations and therefore wrongful prosecution.

Don't be deceptive. Not talking about sports-game deception- Basketball

Don't be deceptive, don't be selfish, don't lie, it will not benefit you.

#### Some people lie to harm others.

Some of you know these kind of lies because you have be the recipient of falsehoods.

You may have had people in your life who are just out to destroy you.  
Psalm 5:9 My enemies cannot speak a truthful word. Their deepest desire is to destroy others  
Maybe you have been crushed by these type of people.  
It is worse when it is a close friend or God forbid a spouse.  
Know that God knows your pain, type of people Jesus dealt with. Matt. 26:59-61

Ultimately lying characterizes the life of sin and one who has not been converted.

Self is the ultimate cause of sin and lying reveals the nature of sin and those still bound under the realm of Satan.

John 8.44. Lying is something the devil does "you belong to your father the devil... he is the father of lies"

Lying is a part of the world's corruption.

We, who are in Christ, belong to another realm, once we were under the realm of Satan,  
"BUT GOD" made us alive.

We are called to take off lying, which was once a part of our old life and put on "telling the truth".  
A renewed mind leads to replacing lies with telling the truth.

We were created from the One who is true, who is the Truth and we must be like Him.

We must tell the truth

Truth is essentially what makes our life a complete contrast to the life of the world.

Zech 8:16 These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts

What is the reason we are to tell the truth and not lie?

This is not a moralistic reaction "it is just bad"

Reason – we are members with one another.

Lies poison community and oneness of the body. God desires truth in the inward parts.

"lies are a stab in the back of the vitals of the Body of Christ"

If we belong to the body of Christ then there must be truth between us.

A few practical thoughts.

If you have trouble with your tongue.

Do you know where liars go? To God in repentance.

Repent to God and rely in the Holy Spirit to change you.

One lie can start a huge bonfire of destruction. To put out that fire we must confer the truth about the lie to God.

Stop lying or covering up your mistakes.

Ask for forgiveness to the ones you hurt.

How to tell the truth

Speaking the truth in love. v15

You cannot be good in a vacuum or a Christian on your own, you must be in community.

Stop any gossip and speak truth about others.

Speaking the Gospel to one another.

Pastor Luke praying over someone Eph. 1:3-14

Renew your mind replacing lies with telling the truth.

What if we began speaking the truth to one another?

What is the way you talk to and about fellow Christians.

Which of these sins and vices are you most vulnerable?

What are some of the rules for Christian living?

read James 3:1-4

what distinguishes our lives from the world?