

Ephesians 4:24-27

1. Vs. 25 – Therefore – what is it therefore? To remind us of our responsibility in this Christian walk.
 - a. Who – each one of us – it is for everyone. NO one is exempt. We all are commanded to always tell the truth.
 - b. What – lay aside falsehood – Paul does not say that we will never encounter falsehood or tales, but that we need to avoid them and not get trapped into tell them. If we find ourselves involved in a false statement, we must immediately “come clean” and walk away.
 - c. Where – when we are with our neighbor – Who is our neighbor? Jesus said that the second Great Commandment (*Matt. 22:36-40*) was to love our neighbor as our selves. So that means that everyone other than us is our neighbor and therefore falls into this category. No one is beyond our telling the truth, no matter.
 - d. When – daily, all the time – There is no time when we should tell an untruth. Isn't it interesting that we can always find a time when we can justify telling a little “white lie”. Just what is a “white lie”? How does it differ from a “black lie”?
 - e. Why – we are members of the same body – The bible says that if we are Christians then we are all of the same body. And if we are all of the same body, then the first part of the second Great Commandment applies to us. We need to love our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore before we can love our neighbor, we much love ourselves. Now let me caution you right here. Jesus is NOT saying that we should all get a big head. He is Not saying that we should go around puffed up about anything. *Jer. 9:24*
2. Verse 26 – Be angry and do not sin – This statement is both powerful and freeing. It gives us permission to be angry, it gives us the notion that there are reasons we should be mad, it tells us that when we are mad, it is understandable. What is implied here is Paul is saying, “If you must get angry, go ahead be angry, but do not sin. The he tells us two specific things about how anger can become sin.
 - a. First let's look at how and why we become angry, and is it right. What are some of the reasons we get angry? We get angry for a lot of reasons.
 - i. Someone says something we don't like
 - ii. They say something about someone we do like
 - iii. They tell a secret
 - iv. They lie

- v. They tell the truth
- vi. They act like we are not there
- vii. They tell others not to like us
- viii. They embarrass us
- ix. They disappoint us
- x. They disrespect us
- xi. They make fun of us

All these things are reasons we get mad, but is it what God says that is reason enough. No. Jesus got angry and threw the money changers out of the temple. Why, because they were defiling the temple of God. I would not put any of the things we listed in the same degree as the money changers. So why do we feel like we can get angry over the least little thing and it is OK because Jesus got angry. If we got angry over a soul not hearing about Jesus, or a child not getting to breathe its first breath, or an old man being ignored, then maybe we would have a right to get angry. So the first thing we need to look at is what are we getting angry over?

- b. Do not let the sun go down on your anger – it is interesting here that Paul does not qualify what the cause of your anger is. It doesn't matter if you are angry for the right reason or the wrong reason. God says, be sure you let it go before you go to bed! Why is the Bible so adamant about this issue? Why is it so important not to go to bed mad, married or not? Because if you let anger fester and grow, it will turn into bitterness and bitterness will turn into a disease that will destroy you from within.
- c. Do not give the devil an opportunity – this is real reason that we need to watch very carefully what we say and do. It is the one thing that will trip us up every time. Because we do not think about it. We do not consider that each time we are selfish or lie, or do something wrong, we are giving the devil an opportunity. What opportunity? An opportunity for the devil to blaspheme God. And he will. **2 Sam. 12:13.**