



A House Undivided
Ephesians 4:25-32
August 25, 2019

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. - **Ephesians 4:32**

I. TOGETHER AS *OIKOS*

- The “therefore” in verse 25 refers back to the new life that Paul describes in verses 17-24 (Eph. 4:17-24).
- It is not sufficient to merely take off our old rags as believers, we must also put on new clothes (Joel 2:12-14; vss. 22-24; Rom. 12:1-3).
- We believers share in fellowship, and fellowship is built on trust, and trust is built on truth (vs. 25).
- Anger in and of itself is not sin, but it often leads to sin when not based on truth. Anger that simmers leads to bitterness and malice (Psalm 4; Matt. 5:22).
- Our honesty and labor are not just for ourselves, it is also for others. We are blessed so that we may bless others (Genesis 12:1-3).
- Our speech should be pure toward others. Anything less is grievous to God (vss. 29-30).
- What we say to one another matters, and we will all give an accounting for it (Luke 6:44-46; Matt. 12:36-37).
- We are to live out a great exchange as believers. We give up bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander and malice. In exchange we freely give kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. We do it because God in Christ does it for us (vss. 31-32).

II. MARRIAGE AND PARENTING IN EPHESIANS

- Every act we participate in contrary to what Ephesians teaches about our relationship to God, to our fellow citizens, to the church, and to our spouses gives opportunity to the devil. The devil does not miss opportunities (2 Cor. 2:10-12; 1 Pet. 5:7-9).
- Getting along in marriage and in our families is simply getting along with anyone in a biblical manner on steroids.

KNOW: Getting along in marriage and in the family is not a mystery. The Scriptures give us ample information on how to have peace in the home, peace in marriage, peace in life.

DO: Apply basic biblical principles on loving others in your marriage and family.

Suggested Reading:

The Meaning of Marriage by Tim Keller (LifePoint Library #646.782 KEL)

Strengthening Your Marriage by Wayne Mack (LifePoint Library #646 MAC)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Ephesians 4:25-32

1. What is Paul trying to promote in Eph. 4:25-32?
2. What does it mean, exactly, to be “members of one another?” How are biologically unrelated people members of each other in Christ?
3. If you were to summarize Paul’s teaching in this section in one sentence, how might you do that?
4. Why is it so important, in life and particularly in marriage, not to allow anger to morph into bitterness?
5. What is our responsibility when we see a person who claims to know Christ in our fellowship speak of others in ways contrary to Paul’s admonitions here?
6. What steps will you take to purposefully live out Paul’s teachings in this passage of Scripture?