

LIVING THE RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Ephesians 4:25-28

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The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:8)

Because God has given us a new life, He expects us to now live a righteous life.

I. Our speech is to be righteous. (v. 25)

These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD. (Zechariah 8:16-17)

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. (Leviticus 19:11)

A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will not go free. (Proverbs 19:5)

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city [of God]. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (Revelation 22:14-15)

...their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

Why? So that the spirit of unity is maintained.

One never errs more safely than when one errs by too much loving the truth. - Augustine

II. Our anger is to be righteous. (v.26)

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath... (Psalm 37:8a)

Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly. (Proverbs 14:29)

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. (Proverbs 19:11)

Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools. (Ecclesiastes 7:9)

Why? So that sin is not given opportunity to take root. (v27)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials.

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!" (Nehemiah 5:6-13)

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)

... if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)

III. Our livelihood is to be righteous. (v. 28)

You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (Genesis 2:15)

...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the

contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

Why? So that we can be generous to others. (28b)

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)