

***Speech: Walking Worthy
with our Words***

PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 4:25–5:14



Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Ephesians 4:25

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

Ephesians 4:26

and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:27

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Ephesians 4:28

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29

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

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Ephesians 4:31

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

Ephesians 5:1

and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 5:6

Therefore do not be partners with them.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

*(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness,
righteousness and truth)*

and find out what pleases the Lord.

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Ephesians 5:11

It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

Ephesians 5:12

But everything exposed by the light becomes visible — and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

Ephesians 5:13

This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Ephesians 4 and 5 is a commentary on 4:24. Here's what it means to put on the new self. We are supposed to reflect this righteousness and holiness. This is our God-given opportunity to shine His image in a fallen world.

Texts like this do not endorse legalism; they are descriptions of life in Christ, which is never without content. Christian living requires certain and specific actions. The Christian faith is not a passive religion.

Klyne Snodgrass

We must actively cultivate a Christian life. For holiness is not a condition into which we drift. We are not passive spectators of a sanctification God works in us.

John Stott

Godly speech is marked
by truthfulness.



In nearly every culture certain forms of stealing are condemned by society, whereas others are tolerated. Few have pangs of conscience about stealing from the government by falsifying tax returns. Employees steal not only by actually taking things, but also by failing to give an honest day's work. Students steal by cheating on their exams. In fact, whole political movements are based on the premise that it is right to steal from the rich in order to give to the poor.

Tom Julien

Godly speech is
marked by blessing .



There is no contradiction between the great truth of our identification with Christ on the one hand, and precise instruction about Christian conduct on the other.

Tom Julien

Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

What we now have, compared to the Old Testament, is the power to live out the commands of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the game-changer.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

Godly speech is
marked by purity.



But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

Matthew 12:36

The passage is not a rejection of humor, which can be engaging, creative, and enjoyable. Rather, it is a rejection of the talk of fools — those who are morally and spiritually perverse — and of humor as a way to play with sin.

Klyne Snodgrass

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Colossians 3:8

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Colossians 3:11

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Good conduct arises out of good doctrine. It is only when we have grasped clearly who we are in Christ, that the desire will grow within us to live a life that is worthy of our calling and fitting to our character as God's new society.

John Stott

I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am.

John Newton

Knowing Christ echoes
in our verbal evidence.

