

“Honesty Is The Only Policy”

Ephesians 4:25

Sermon Series: “The Walk”

Main Idea of the Second Half of Ephesians: We can live out what Jesus expects of us by living out of what Jesus has done for us.

Main Idea of the Section (4:17-32): Jesus made us new so we live new lives by putting off the old and putting on the new through the renewing of our minds.

Main Idea of the Verse: A new person in Christ is to be an honest person.

I. Put off lying: Make a commitment to God, through the empowering of His Spirit, that lying will not be an option in any situation. How can we live this commitment out?

1. We put off lying by renewing our minds. In other words, we have to change how we think about lying.

A. Why We Lie:

- Pragmatism learned from the culture
- Greed
- To harm others
- To stay out of trouble, save face, or avoid embarrassment

(fear is the root of this)

- To avoid hurting someone’s feelings or avoid confrontation
- To get our own way or advance ourselves
- To make ourselves look or feel better

B. Ways We Lie: (some of this list is taken from Kent Hughes commentary on the 10 Commandments)

- Exaggeration
- Cheating

- Plagiarism
- Breaking promises
- Betraying a confidence
- Flattery
- Excuses
- Slander
- Chronically inaccurate
- Insinuation
- Half truths
- Living a lie

C. Why Its Wrong:

- Lying goes against the command of God (Exodus 20:16).
- Lying goes against the character of God (John 14:6).
- Lying actually makes us like Satan (John 8:44).
- Lying goes against the new nature of believers.
- Lying goes against the body of Christ.
- The fruit of lies is destruction.

2. We put off lying by repenting.

A. Habitual lying is an indication that a person may not be saved (Psalm 101:7, Matthew 12:36-37, Revelation 21:8).

B. Confess it to God as sin (1 John 1:9).

C. Make it right with others.

II. Put on the Truth: Be committed, by the grace of God, to speak the truth in every situation. What will help us do this?

1. Fear God more than man.

2. Realize this is a gospel issue.

3. Know the truth.

4. Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

5. Receive the truth.

6. Live the truth.

7. Realize that our fellowship with God and our relationships with one another are at stake.