

UNWANTED THINGS IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

Ephesians 4:25-32

Introduction: (Without saying a word, slowly, deliberately remove your jacket/coat, outer upper garment.) As this "coat" was removed, likewise must Christians put off, remove some certain, unwanted things in his/her life. There are things which cause automatic response and often that response is not in the best interest of the believer in Jesus. Paul identifies some of those things and each one of us can also identify with them. We must make deliberate efforts to put aside and stop acting and reacting in such manners that would bring shame to our Lord and the Christian life.

I. NO MORE FALSEHOOD - LYING

1. There are times when the Christian speaks untruths deliberately, and then there are times when the words of untruth come out without even thinking, automatically.
2. There are times when the Christian should speak but instead, remains silent, thus a lie of silence.
3. Truth within God's family is a MUST! There is no need to speak untruths within God's family.

II. EXERCISE ONLY THE "RIGHT" KIND OF ANGER

1. Everyone exhibits a bad temper and irritability at one time or other, usually with unkind results.
2. There is such a thing as a "good" anger when anger is expressed against what is wrong.
3. Jesus expressed anger at times: *Mark 3:5; John 2:13-17*
4. The "right" kind of anger is NOT selfish and/or uncontrolled anger.

III. DO NOT KEEP HOLDING ON TO ANGER

1. It is natural to let anger boil up within and dwell upon it day after day, but Christians are told not to keep holding on to that moment of anger.
2. Christians are to reconcile, make peace, bring an end to the cause of the anger as quickly as possible, preferably by the end of the day. The intent is to not let anger be dwelt upon.
3. If anger is allowed not quieted, ended, it will grow, fester and cause one to become even more bitter at the cause of his/her anger.
4. Anger is one of Satan's most often used "weapon" to separate friends and cause hurt.

IV. THERE IS NO NEED TO TAKE WHAT IS NOT YOURS (STEAL)

1. It is easy to "shop-lift," to pick up something, stick it in one's pocket or purse. Everyone at one time or other has taken something he/she did not work for, earn or deserve - that's stealing.
2. God expects His Children to do honest labor, work to provide and care for their families and to share by helping those less fortunate, who have genuine needs.
3. Contrary to man's thoughts about work, God's idea of work is for one to not only care for his/her but to be able to GIVE to help others.

V. STOP USING BAD LANGUAGE

1. The words one chooses to use reveals that person's real, inner heart. "Well, Jesus Christ!" "Oh My God!" Words of profanity! Taking God's name in vain, using God's name in an empty expression and not in a meaning of worship and respect. Profanity!
2. The vocabulary, words of Christians should be such that non-Christians would be helped in their finding God. Are YOUR words, your vocabulary any different than anybody else's?

VI. STOP GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Have your children ever brought grief, sadness to your heart by disobeying, ignoring your instructions?
2. Christians, like any child, disobey the Holy Spirit and grieve and hurt the heart of God. Think about it Christian! YOU have disobeyed and grieved the Holy Spirit and God. Stop it!

CONCLUSION:

1. There is no need for Christians to hang on to resentment, anger, hurt feelings.
2. There is no need for Christians to hold on to temper tantrums and pout.
3. There is no need for Christians to use loud, abusive and profane language.
4. There is a need for Christians to be kind and treat others as Jesus treats His Family.