

DECONSTRUCTION

Pulpit Study Guide

RECONSTRUCTION

of the Disciple's Life pt. 6

Characteristics of the Reconstructed Life (3)

Ephesians 4:29-32

Characteristics of the Reconstructed Life

In Ephesians 4: 25-32, we see several characteristics of the reconstructed life.

#1 Stop lying and speak the truth (v.25)

#2 Trade unrighteous anger for righteous anger (v.26-27)

#3 End stealing and begin sharing (v.28)

This week we are going to look at the fourth and fifth characteristics...

#4 Exchange unwholesome language for edifying speech (v.29-30)

#5 Replace ungodly actions for godly actions (v. 31-32)

Ephesians 4:29-32 ESV

29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Group Study Questions

Exchange unwholesome language for edifying speech (v.29-30)

1. Have you ever had your mouth washed out with soap? If not, should you have?
2. How important are the words we speak? See Matthew 12:34.
3. Look up James 3:4-10. How is the tongue described? Why is it important we control our tongue?
4. In Ephesians 4:29, “corrupting talk” literally means speech that is rotten or harmful. Why do we sometimes say things that are hurtful to others?
5. What is the Biblical standard for our speech? See Ephesians 5:4.
6. What is the language of the “new self”? See Eph. 4:29b.

INTROSPECTION

- Does the way you talk build others up and give them grace? Or is it unwholesome, hurtful and grieve the Holy Spirit?
- Do you hold on to things like bitterness, wrath, anger and malice? Are you able to be tenderhearted and kind? Can you forgive others as Christ forgave you?
- Ask the Spirit of God to search your heart and to show where you can exchange unwholesome language for edifying speech and to replace ungodly actions for godly actions.
- You may also find it helpful to seek accountability from a brother or sister in Christ or your small group.

FOR FURTHER REFERENCE AND STUDY

Commentary on Ephesians 4:29-32*

4:29-30. Believers are **not** to speak **unwholesome** (*sapros*, "rotten") words (cf. 5:4), but **helpful** (*agathos*, "good, beneficial"; cf. 4:28) words for the purpose of edification. Good words **benefit** (lit., "give grace" or enablement to) the hearers. One's words are to be true and pure and also are to contribute to benefiting others. Besides one's conscience, **the Holy Spirit** also helps guard a believer's speech. The fact that the Holy Spirit may be grieved points to His personality. His seal of a believer remains until **the day of redemption**, the time that a believer receives his new body (cf. 1:14; Phil. 3:20-21).

4:31-32. Believers are to **get rid of** the six vices of **bitterness**, **rage** (*thymos*, "outbursts of anger"), **anger** (*orgē*, "settled feeling of anger"), **brawling** (*kraugē*, "shouting or clamor"), **slander** (*blasphēmia*), and **malice** (*kakia*, "ill will, wickedness"). Several of these vices are also listed in Colossians 3:8. The positive commands are three: (1) **be kind** (*chrēstoi*, lit., "what is suitable or fitting to a need"); (2) **be compassionate** (*eusplanchnoi*; used elsewhere in the NT only in 1 Peter 3:8; cf. *splanchnoi*, "inner emotions of affection," in 2 Cor. 6:12; 7:15; Phil. 1:8; 2:1; Col. 3:12; Phile. 7, 12, 20; 1 John 3:17); (3) **be forgiving** (lit., "being gracious," *charizomenoi*, the participle from the verb *charizomai*, "to give freely" or "to give graciously as a favor"). The reason for these positive commands is that **in Christ God** is kind (Eph. 2:7), compassionate (Mark 1:41), and gracious (Rom. 8:32) to believers.*

* Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.