

**"The Practice of the Believer"**

**Ephesians 4-6**

**Part 9**

**Introduction:** The last time we were in our study of Ephesians we began to look at what it means to "put off the old man and to put on the new man".

**Notice Ephesians 4:22-24**

This is something that only the believer can do. This is only possible by surrender to the Holy Spirit. Christianity is NOT TRYING HARDER. If that is what you think it is, you are completely wrong. Christianity is a close relationship with the Lord and Him living His life through us. In the verses that follow Paul shows us how this is done in a very practical way.

**"Let's Move Forward"**

**Part 4**

I want to review over what we looked at the last time in our study.

**1. Speak the Truth.**

**Notice Ephesians 4:25**

**2. Control your Anger.**

**Notice Ephesians 4:26-27**

The new man will get angry at times. He will become angry at sinful practices. He will become angry when people are used and mistreated. He will become angry because of sin. But the new man knows how to control his anger. He will be slow to anger and he will be careful not allow anger to take him to the point of committing sin.

**Proverbs 14:29**

*<sup>29</sup> He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

**Ecclesiastes 7:9**

*<sup>9</sup> Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*

**A. The Consequences of Anger in the Life of Moses.**

**Numbers 20:12**

*<sup>12</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.*

This now brings us to where we are today.

**3. Stop stealing, start working and be generous.**

**Notice Ephesians 4:28**

When we think of stealing, we think of breaking into a house and taking property that belongs to another person. This is stealing and it is not to have any part in the life of a Christian. There is also another way of stealing that many do not think about.

**Notice Ephesians 4:28 again.**

We are not to steal but we are to labor with our hands in that which is good so that we will have finances to help others who have needs. When we labor with our hands and gather all we can for ourselves we are also stealing from those who are in need.

There are two kinds of people. There are replenishers and there are depleters. Depleters are people who just constantly take but they do not invest anything into the lives of other people.

In our verse Paul tells us that there are two characteristics that mark a thief.

1. He does not want to work for what he desires.
2. He will not share what he does have.

So, when a believer puts on the "new garment" the opposite of these will be true.

A believer can be a hard worker and he may work from daylight until dark, but he refuses to share what he has then he is not wearing the "new garment". In other words, he is not surrendered over to the Holy Spirit. He is controlled by the flesh.

When a believer is stingy in giving, he is also guilty of stealing.

**Malachi 3:8**

*<sup>8</sup> Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

When we refuse to give to God then we are guilty of stealing. Now let me take this thought a little further.

**Proverbs 19:17**

*17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

To give to the poor is to lend to God so when a believer refuses to give to help meet a need he is then robbing God. Now, maybe you are someone who has a difficult time giving to help someone because you worry about tomorrow for yourself. Let me help you with your fear.

➤ **Biblical Principle**

Notice Proverbs 19:17 on the screen again. When you give to the poor you LEND to God and He will repay.

This is the Biblical principle. That when we give, God replenishes our supply. You cannot out give God.

**Proverbs 11:24-25**

*24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.*

*25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*

**Proverbs 28:27**

*27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.*

In Israel, every 7<sup>th</sup> year was a year of release. Notice what Moses recorded.

**Deuteronomy 15:7-13**

*7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:*

*8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.*

*9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.*

<sup>10</sup> Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

<sup>11</sup> For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

<sup>12</sup> And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.

<sup>13</sup> And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty:

Someone might say, "This is Old Testament principle."

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

<sup>7</sup> Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

<sup>9</sup> (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

<sup>10</sup> Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

Now let me show you this principle at work.

## **John 6:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

<sup>12</sup> When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

**4. Guard your tongue.**

**Notice Ephesians 4:29**

The word "corrupt" here means "rotten". The tongue has caused more problems within the church than probably anything else.

**James 3:2-8**

*<sup>2</sup> For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

*<sup>3</sup> Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.*

*<sup>4</sup> Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.*

*<sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

*<sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

*<sup>7</sup> For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:*

*<sup>8</sup> But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

The tongue can be used to cause great damage to other individuals. But as believers wearing the "new garment" our tongues are never to be used to do damage but only to edify and speak grace unto the hearers. This is something that is very rare today.

**Proverbs 18:21**

*<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

We must be very careful because the common practice today is for people to use their words to damage the reputation of another. If we are not careful, we can become caught up in this practice. When this happens, we are not under the control of the Holy Spirit, but we are under the control of the flesh. The flesh will speak words that damage another because the flesh likes to feel superior.

Our speech should truly separate us from the rest of the world today. Let me show you what Peter wrote to his readers who were under persecution.

**1 Peter 2:1**

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Notice what Paul wrote:

**Colossians 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Listen to a poem by an unnamed author:

*A careless word may kindle strife.  
A cruel word may wreck a life.  
A bitter word may hate instill;  
A brutal word may smite and kill.  
A gracious word may smooth the way;  
A joyous word may light the day.  
A timely word may lessen stress;  
A loving word may heal and bless*

**Conclusion:**

Our words should mark us as believers

**Matthew 26:69-74**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

<sup>70</sup> But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

<sup>71</sup> And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

<sup>72</sup> And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

<sup>73</sup> And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

<sup>74</sup> Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

**Luke 6:44-46**

<sup>44</sup> For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

<sup>45</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**

<sup>46</sup> And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?