

One- Words that build.

Sermon Notes

January 16, 2022

Texts to read for Engaging Culture:

1 Peter 2:9-17

Philippians 3:10-20

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Matthew 10:16-20

Acts 23-26

Questions being addressed this week regarding Engaging Culture:

1. What is a Christian's responsibility in society as an American citizen?
2. How do I engage issues in my community that are not aligned with my Christian beliefs yet affect me and my family?

Pray

Read **Ephesians 4:22-29**

Summary of living out the truth of Christ—*It's not about you!*

Truth, wisely spoken, leads to thriving relationships. (25)

- We are to get rid of any words or actions that can be misleading, deceitful, or completely contrary to truth—a lie.
- Jesus is truth and his people are to live as he lived.
- Truth (Jesus and his Word) is the spotlight on our deceitful thoughts; therefore, we need to test our thoughts before we speak.
- Wisdom will not only consider the truth of our words but the motive, spirit, and timing of our words.

Words are a leading cause of anger. (26)

- **James 3:5** says our tongue is like a spark that can consume an entire forest.
- Anger begins as an involuntary emotion that can become sin.
- Sinful anger happens when:
 - It consumes your thoughts and dictates your perspective.

- It chooses the desired outcome of an encounter.
- When our words are spoken to wound and not build.
- Retaliation is the motive...“I bleed...You bleed.”
- Deal with your hurt and anger, do not nurture it.
 - The “sun going down” charge is not a license to wake up your spouse or friend to “have it out” so that you can then sleep in peace.
 - This is a charge to not let the anger percolate, but to deal with it in truth and spirit before God.
- Nurturing your anger gives a platform for the Devil to do his work to transform you into his likeness. (27)

We work to increase our capacity to give to others. (28)

- Confronting stealing with the charge to consider other’s needs.
- This where truth confronts our deepest motives.
- Such a transformation will affect what we say and do.

Guard the gate of your mouth. (29)

- σαπρος– rotten, putrid, foul, vicious, corrupt.
- We are not to let “**any**” such word be spoken.
- We are to “**only**” speak words that build up others.