

Series: Ephesians  
Title: Speak Every Man Truth  
Text: Ephesians 4: 25  
Date: June 15, 2014  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**Ephesians 4:25: Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.**

Speaking to believers, the Holy Spirit instructs us to “put off the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” and “put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

Next, he comes to particulars.

**Ephesians 4:25: Wherefore putting away lying**—that is one way the believer puts off the old man—putting away lying,....lying is of the old man of flesh—**put away lying.**

**Ephesians 4: 25:...speak every man truth with his neighbour:**—that is how the believer puts on the new man—**speak every man truth with his neighbor...**

Then he gives believers the reason or the motive for doing so—**Ephesians 4: 25:...for we are members one of another**—every believer, as well as those which Christ shall call out, is a member of Christ, therefore we are members one of another.

**Proposition:** The very life of this body of Christ, the very nourishment of each member in particular and the tie that binds us each together is truth.

**Ephesians 4:25: Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.**

I must not preach this as a bare precept. Imagine if someone here today has never heard the gospel preached. If I preached this as a precept only it would leave them thinking salvation is by man’s doing—when salvation is all of Christ’s doing. So I want to do as Paul did later in the letter when he exhorts us to submission. He preached Christ and him crucified as he gave the exhortation. I want to do that here with this exhortation.

**I. SO FIRST HE SAYS, V25--“PUTTING AWAY LYING.”**

**Father of Lies**

The father of lies is the devil.

John 8:44: Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Christ said the devil “was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth.” It was Christ that the devil sought to murder from the beginning, from eternity past. Because the devil abode not in the truth—he would not have Christ, as the GodMan, to reign over him, who was a created angel. Christ said for that reason “There is no truth in him.”—the devil fell into darkness from the state God created him. Christ said, “When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” It is natural for the

devil to speak a lie. Lies are of his own nature, of his own will, of his own devising because he is a liar—that is his being, that is all the devil is, a liar. And he is the father of lies.

### **First Lie, Mass Murder**

The way the devil sought to murder Christ was by murdering Adam and Eve through whom Christ would come into the earth. He sought to do so by a lie. The first word God spoke to a man, he spoke to Adam. Of course it was the truth—

Genesis 2: 16: And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

But the first word the devil spoke was a lie. He deceived Eve, saying, “Thou shalt not surely die.” (Gen 3: 4) That was the first lie ever told in this earth. It led to the fall of Adam which was also the fall of all mankind, including us.

1 Corinthians 15:22...in Adam all die,...

Romans 5: 19: For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners,...

### **Natural Born Liars**

Therefore, man comes forth from the womb with a nature like the father of lies.

Ephesians 2: 2: ye walked...according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit...3:...in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;...

As Christ said “the lusts of your father ye will do.” And we did. The description Christ gave of the devil is also a description of our “old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” The old man within us was a murderer of Christ from the beginning—enmity against God. The first and chief lust of our old man is to lie, chiefly, against the truth of God. In our old man we would not abide in the truth because there is no truth in the depraved old man of flesh. When it came to God, our condition, and how God saves sinners: we lied, we listened to lies, we believed lies, and we approved of lies. When we spoke a lie—abasing God and exalting ourselves—we spoke of our own: of our own nature, of our own will, of our own wisdom, of our own works, of our own devising, and it was all of our own approving

### **The Law against Lying**

We broke the law of God constantly because the law says, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” (Ex 20: 16) We spoke plenty of lies against our neighbor for sure. But first and foremost we bore false witness against God in Christ. We spoke of little God and big I!

Isaiah 59:3:...your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. 4: None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Illustration: Brethren, whether in religion or not, when you were dead in sins, do you ever recall speaking of God as just?

Dead sinners never speak of God being just to condemn us to hell in truth. Dead sinners never speak of the justice of the cross in truth. Instead, we trusted in vanity and spoke lies.

We spoke lies and iniquity about Christ's death on the cross. When we said Christ died for all men we spoke iniquity. If he died for men already in hell that is not justice, that is iniquity. There is nothing equitable and just about Christ satisfying justice for a sinner who is suffering eternal condemnation and or who shall—that is unjust. We spoke lies saying “God loves you.” What if we said that to an Esau, of whom God said, “Esau have I hated?” (Rom 9: 13) We lied. We bore false witness, saying, “God wants to save you.” God does not *want* to do anything. It was a lie against the sinner because it exalted sinners to think they have power to forbid or let God do as God will.

Daniel 4:35: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

## **A Lying Nature**

Furthermore, we lied all the time. We were in the flesh. So we were a liar by nature. We were nothing but lies. We may have spoke a true word but it was a lie because it came from a heart in defiance against God. Listen to God speak of fallen man:

Jeremiah 9:3: And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD. 4: Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders. 5: And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

## **Hell is for Liars**

Believer, had God left us in that state, we would have been condemned for our lies.

Revelation 21:8: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 22:15: For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

The reason we did not perish in our lies:

Ephesians 2: 5: BUT GOD...who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Wherefore, put off the old man...put away lying...Ephesians 4: 27: neither give place to the devil. Understand what this putting away and this putting on really means. It is a state, a character of the inner man, peculiar only to the true believer. This is the grace given of God; it is not common virtues. Only the inner man created of God hates every false way and loves truth. The old man is incapable of this.

Brethren, in the new man God has brought us to entirely, thoroughly abandon and renounce, not in outward speech only, but in the inmost heart, all falsehood. So put away all falsehood in your thoughts, put away all

lying in your speech and actions, put away all false doctrine, all false preachers, and everything else that is false.

Colossians 3:9: Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

## **II. SECONDLY, OUR TEXT SAYS, SPEAK THE TRUTH—Ephesians 4: 25: Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour:...**

### **Father of Truth**

God is Truth. As lying is of the devil, truth is of God.

Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before [Moses], and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth...

God is “God, that cannot lie.” (Tit 1: 2) God neither deceives nor can he be deceived. He does not have to lie, God can bring to pass what he promises.

Numbers 23:19: God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Furthermore, the Second Person in the Trinity is not only the Son of God, not only the Word of God, he said, “I am the truth.” (Jn 14: 6) “If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus.” (Eph 4: 21) He was made flesh and dwelt among us, “full of grace and truth.” (Jn 1: 14)

Also, God the Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Truth” (Jn 14: 7; 15: 26) He guides his people “into all truth.” (Jn 16: 13)

So our triune God in Christ Jesus is Truth. Therefore, a lie, being contrary to the truth, is contrary to God and is the utmost abomination to God.

Pr 12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

“Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man TRUTH with his neighbor.”

### **Redeemed in Truth**

Not only is our God truth, brethren, we have been redeemed in truth.

Psalm 33:4: For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

Along with the works of his hands, God’s law is truth.

Psalm 111: 7: The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. 8: They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

But we broke God’s law in Adam and came forth lying lawbreakers by nature. Therefore the law and justice of God of God would swallow us up in death. God’s law must be fulfilled in righteousness; justice must be carried out on the guilty. We had to die for God to remain just! How then could God’s righteous and holy precepts be fulfilled by us? How can God be true in justice, kill us as the law demanded, yet still have mercy on us.

Psalm 57:3 He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

By his sovereign grace, God sent from heaven God's own Son, Christ Jesus who is God's Mercy and his Truth. Christ Jesus did not come to destroy the law we broke; he came to fulfill the law we broke and to do so for his people.

Have you ever sat and thought how that his entire life, Christ Jesus never spoke a lie, only truth. Believer, can you even imagine what it would be like to never have never spoken a lie? Christ fulfilled the whole law in perfect righteousness in thought, word and deed. He did it for those he came to save.

When he had finished that work, he went to the cross and finished upholding the penalty of the law. The way God showed his chosen people mercy and remained true to his justice is by Christ Jesus his Son suffering the just judgment of God in our place unto death. When Christ cried, "It is finished", for each and every person for whom he died,

Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

You who have been taught of God, that the only way we establish the law is through faith in Christ, you can no longer bear false witness against Christ, boasting in the lies of your so-called lawkeeping! Believers do not "change the truth of God into a lie, and worshipping and serve the creature more than the Creator." (Rom 1: 25) We say Ps 115:1: Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Proverbs 8:7: For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Proverbs 12:17: He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

Wherefore, putting away lying—the way we lie now is by not speaking, when we should—"as we ought to speak." Speak every man truth with his neighbor—declare and bring forth clear witness of Christ in your speech to one another and to all who show an interest in the truth.

### **New Man Created in Truth**

The reason the Holy Spirit is teaching us to speak the truth of the gospel is because the new man is created of God in truth.

Psalm 51:6: Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

We were a lost sheep. We had to hear the truth and be brought to faith in Christ in order for his body to be complete. So Christ the Truth brought the truth to us through one of his members speaking the truth in love.

Jeremiah 33: 6: Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. 7: And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. [that is, Christ will do the building as he did at the first] 8: And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will

pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. 9: And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, [as we speak truth to our neighbors] which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Not all shall fear and tremble-but those who are the true members of Christ's body, his lost sheep. The Holy Spirit declares that is what Christ has done for us who believe:

Ephesians 1: 16: And that he might reconcile both [Jew and Gentile] unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17: And [he] came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ..19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

“Of his own will begot he us with the word of truth.” (Ja 1: 18) The Holy Spirit of truth guided us into all truth (Jn 16: 13) Christ, the Truth, is now formed in us. We worship God in spirit and in truth (Jn 4: 23-24) And he has put us together that “speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” (Eph 4: 15)

### **So We Speak Truth**

Christ said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Lu 6: 45) What do we speak to one another and to those who are interested? We speak the truth that “in my flesh dwells no good thing.” We speak truth that, “My wisdom is not of me—Christ is my Wisdom.” My righteousness is not of me—Christ is my Righteousness. My sanctification is not of me--Christ is my sanctifier and my sanctification (Heb 2: 11; 10: 14) My redemption is not of me—Christ is my Redeemer and my Redemption—“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free...if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (Jn 8: 34-35) We speak the truth when “he that glories, glories only in the Lord.” (1 Cor 1: 31) Those who speak the truth of Christ, God says,

Revelation 14: 5: And in their mouth was found NO GUILE: for they are WITHOUT FAULT before the throne of God.

**III. LASTLY, HERE IS THE REASON OR THE MOTIVE FOR PUTTING AWAY LYING AND SPEAKING TRUTH WITH OUR NEIGHBOR—Ephesians 4: 25: For we are members one of another.**

### **The Body of Society**

There is a sense in which all men are members one of another. Lying is detrimental to human society. If I lie it will only hurt me because it hurts my fellow man, which hurts the society of which we are both members.

**Illustration:** When is the last time you were trusted or trusted others with anything of great importance without a contract? It is because we have lied to each other to the point that we do not trust the other is telling the truth.

So indeed, do not lie to your fellow man.

### **The Body of Christ**

But in context, Paul has been speaking of believers oneness with Christ and with one another in the body of Christ. Here is the meaning of our text: speak truth because you, those Christ has already called out, as well

as those he shall call out are members of Christ and members one of another. Christ shall call out his lost sheep and Christ shall edify your brethren already called out but he shall do so through you and I “speaking the truth in love” to one another.

And being members of Christ’s body, they are members of your body. So if your brethren are edified, the whole body is edified, therefore you are edified. And when the last one is called out, so that Christ’s body is complete, then shall Christ return to take us all home!

So the way you and I, as believers, will be a blessing, is by every one of us speaking truth of Christ with our neighbor: that is with one another who already believes, as well as with those who show a sincere interest in the gospel.

In what Paul has written in Ephesians concerning believers being citizens of heavenly Jerusalem, being one body in Christ, being a blessing to each other edifying the body by speaking the truth, it appears Paul had been reading Zechariah 8. The LORD is not speaking to all men in this passage, he is speaking of his true church, his body.

Zechariah 8: 3: Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: [his church, heavenly Jerusalem] and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. 7: Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; 8: And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness....13: And it shall come to pass, *that* as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, *but* let your hands be strong....16: These are the things that ye shall do; [here is how we shall be a blessing] Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: 17: And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.

Ephesians 4: 25: Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

**Amen!**