

# Weapon of Mass Destruction— or Construction

*Life in Christ: Wealth, Walk, Warfare (Ephesians) – Part 107*

*Ephesians 4:29-30*

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<sup>20</sup>But as for you, you did not learn Christ like that, <sup>21</sup> assuming that *it is* Him you heard, and *it is* in Him you were taught, since truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> for you to take off, with respect to *your* former behavior, the old man, who was being corrupted in accord with desires *coming* from deceit, <sup>23</sup> and to be made new in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new man, who was created in accord with God, in righteousness and piety *coming* from the truth.

<sup>25</sup> Wherefore, having taken off falsehood, “speak truth, each with his neighbor,” because we are members of one another.

*[Ephesians 4:20-30 DJP]*

<sup>26</sup> “Be angry, and do not sin”; let not the sun set upon your angry mood, <sup>27</sup> nor give room for the Devil.

<sup>28</sup> He who steals, let him steal no more, but instead let him labor, working with his own hands what is good, that he might have *something* to impart to the one having need.

<sup>29</sup> Every foul<sup>1</sup> word<sup>2</sup> — do not let it go out of your mouth; but *instead*, whatever is good for building up what is needed,<sup>3</sup> that it might give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not sadden the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed until the day of redemption.

## Introduction:

### I. What Needs to Stop: Gr\_\_\_\_\_ous Verbal \_\_\_\_\_truction (v. 29a)

#### A. The Weapon Out\_\_\_\_\_ed

1. Generally: our \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Its power:  
Proverbs 18:21  
James 3:1-10
  - b. How it reveals \_\_\_\_\_  
James 1:26  
Matthew 12:34–35
  - c. How it can affect \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 6:24ff.; 10:14; 11:9, 11; 15:4; 16:28; 26:18-20, 28)
2. Specifically: *Every foul word*
  - a. Definition of *sapros* (*foul*)
    - i. Uses outside the NT

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<sup>1</sup> Or *worthless, corrupt, harmful*.

<sup>2</sup> Or *communication*; mng ranges from single word to speech, communication, message.

<sup>3</sup> Literally *for building up* [or *edification*] *of the need*.

- ii. NT uses
  - Matthew 7:17–18
  - Matthew 12:33
  - Matthew 13:48
  - Luke 6:4

b. Meaning:

c. Application

**B. The Action Out \_\_\_\_\_ ed**

1. What it is: *do not let it go out of your mouth*
2. What to do

**II. What Needs to Proliferate: Gracious Verbal Construction (v. 29b)**

**A. Its Character:** *whatever is good for building up what is needed*  
Proverbs 10:11, 21, 31; 11:11; 15:4a, 7)

**B. Its Gift:** *that it might give grace to those who hear*

1. Grace here is
  - 1 Corinthians 15:10
  - Ephesians 3:2, 7-8; 4:7

2. Here's the amazing thing:

**III. Why: the Indwelling Holy Spirit (v. 30)**

**A. What We Learn About the \_\_\_\_\_**

**B. What We Learn About \_\_\_\_\_**