

## ***Becoming What You Are (Ephesians 4:25-30)***

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. Illustration – the Emancipation Proclamation
  - B. Becoming what you are (Indicatives naturally lead to imperatives)
  - C. Review of Context (Eph 4:1-24)
  - D. Sermon Course and Reading text
  
- II. ***Therefore ...***
  - A. A *therefore* that finally starts the ‘imperative engine’
  - B. Why we should love imperatives (precepts)
    - 1. The large volume of precepts in Scripture
    - 2. Precepts are part of the Great Commission and Christian discipleship
    - 3. Precepts reveal how we are to glorify God through good works
    - 4. Precepts are the outward evidence that we are Christians
    - 5. Precepts are the Holy Spirit’s primary means of convincing of sin
    - 6. Precepts reveal the good works that God prepared for us to walk in
    - 7. Precepts are filled with Gospel language
  - C. *Therefore ... put off and put on*
  
- III. **Lying vs. speaking the truth (v. 25)**
  - A. Lying is acceptable – even a virtue – in society and culture
  - B. What constitutes lies (*technical truth, exaggeration, withholding truth*)
  - C. Lying in the church (the church loves to be lied to)
  - D. Speak truth because we are members of the same body
    - 1. Chrysostom’s illustration
  
- IV. **Be angry and do not sin (v. 26-27)** developed next week – see devotional
  
- V. **Steal no longer, but rather work and give (v. 28)**
  - A. Examples of stealing (sick days, stealing time, copyrighted material)
  - B. Labor (the Protestant work ethic)
    - 1. Ephesians 6:8-10, Titus 1:12-14, 2
    - 2. You were created to work, forever!
    - 3. Work is God’s will especially for husbands – 2 Thess 3:10-12
  - C. God’s creative work and our building of the body of Christ
    - 1. words and works in building or tearing down God’s building
  - D. The virtue of *working with your hands*
  - E. *Working what is good* (morally good)
  - F. The reason we work – in order to give to others (Gal 6:10)
    - 1. Even in this economy?
  
- VI. **Grieving God? And a Final Release! (v. 30)**
  - A. Can God be grieved? Ps 78:40, Is 7:13, Is 43:24
  - B. Are you God’s enemy? Isaiah 63:10, Rev 21:7-8
  - C. Are you sealed unto the day of release? (2 Cor 5:1-5)