

“Laying Aside Falsehood”  
Ephesians 4:25  
(Preached at Trinity, March 29, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Chapter 4** opened with the words: "I implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called"
  - A. It announces the high calling of the Christian and implores us to walk worthy of this calling.
  - B. The word “walk” identifies the course of one’s life. Paul implores us to walk in a manner in harmony with the Christian life—in holiness, in service.
2. Paul is reminding his readers of the great transformation of their lives. Christianity is a mighty turn from the past.
3. **Verses 17-24** are a single sentence with a single thought. You have been transformed so live in a manner consistent with this transformation.  
**Ephesians 4:22-24 NAU** - "that in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."
4. **Verse 25** begins with the familiar, “therefore.” There is more than one Greek word translated “therefore.” This particular word carries the idea “for this reason.” It begins a result clause. The word translated, “laying aside” is an aorist participle designating a completed action. The NASB isn’t as clear on this. The ESV expresses it well:  
**Ephesians 4:25 ESV** - "Therefore, having put away falsehood"  
The CSV even better:  
**Ephesians 4:25 CSB** - " Since you put away lying"
5. Paul’s emphasis beginning with **Verse 17** has been to stress the Christian’s break with the old life.  
This is what you were. This is what you are now. For this reason, be what you are. No longer walk in the way you did previously.  
**Ephesians 4:17 NAU** - "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk"
6. Now Paul breaks this down practically. He reminds us of how this transformation has impacted our lives. “Therefore since you have set aside the old self. . .”  
You are no longer a liar or a thief. You are no longer characterized by outbursts of anger, bitterness, or hurtful words. These things describe the old self but they no longer define you. Paul is illustrating what it means to put off the old and put on the new.
7. In **Verses 25-32** Paul lists five classes of sins that belonged to the old man, the old self, the old life. **(1) Lying, (2) Sinful Anger, (3) Stealing, (4) Unwholesome Words, (5) Bitterness and resentment**

8. Then Paul gives us the virtues that fill the vacuum.  
**Ephesians 4:32 NAU** - "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."  
 This will continue into **Chapter 5** where Paul admonishes us to become imitators of God.
9. This morning I want us to look at the first class of sins – “Laying aside falsehood.”  
 These are sins not only of dishonesty, deceit, and deception that flow from the sinful heart but also the failure to embrace and manifest the truth.
- I. Paul first states it in the negative: “Laying aside falsehood,”  
 Paul is assuming that we have set aside these sins of dishonesty.
- A. Falsehood and deceit describe one of the chief characteristics of the unregenerate man
1. A pagan culture is always characterized by falsehood
    - a. We see it in politics. Few politicians really intend to deliver all of the things promised during their campaign.
    - b. We see it in business practices and advertising. We come to expect it. No one expects to get the hamburger they see in the picture.
    - c. Worse is when false accusations and false testimonies result in displays of injustice.
  2. Dishonesty and deceit characterizes the lives of those who consider themselves good people.  
 Husbands and wives lie to one another. Children deceive their parents.
  3. All of our fallen culture is built upon deception. We meet and gather with smiles and friendly words while hiding thoughts of criticism and condemnation.  
 Lloyd-Jones – “What if people really spoke to the truth to one another and told one another what they really think of one another and what they really believe? I can safely say that the whole life of society, in any realm or at any level—no matter how polite, no matter how exalted it is—is run on this principle of deceit and lying. And we all know it to be so. But the pretense, the sham, and the play-acting goes on. This is, without a doubt, the most characteristic thing about the life of sin.”
  4. The solution isn’t to begin sharing our corrupt thoughts with one another.  
 The solution is to put away the corrupt thoughts. We aren’t commanded to *act* like we love one another. We are commanded to love one another.  
 This is the new life. Paul describes it in **Verse 32**.  
**Ephesians 4:32 NAU** - "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
  5. Falsehood divides and is uncharacteristic of our new lives.
- B. God sees lying as great corruption
1. One of the Ten Commandments is dedicated to this sin
  2. Lying is involved in two of the seven sins that God calls an abomination  
**Proverbs 6:16-19 NAU** - "There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers."

3. Liars are among those singled out as characterizing those who go to hell.  
**Revelation 21:8 NAU** - "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
  4. It characterizes Satan and his followers.
    - a. The first sin was the result of Satan's lies:  
**Genesis 3:13 NAU** - "Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."  
 "He lied to me . . ."
    - b. Satan is still the father of lies.  
**John 8:44 NAU** - "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
    - c. To Ananias and Sapphira Peter asked:  
**Acts 5:3 NAU** - "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?"
    - d. A life characterized by lies and deceit is a life under the dominion of Satan.
- C. Falsehood displays itself in many different ways
1. Malicious Gossip  
**Proverbs 20:19 NAU** - "He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip."
    - a. Malicious gossip is speech that tears down and damages the reputation of others. We are sometimes guilty of purposely sharing details out of context that defame the character of someone – and they seldom get to defend themselves.
    - b. A person's reputation is important and we should endeavor to protect it
    - c. Most gossip is filled with misinformation, hearsay and half-truths but even true words can violate this commandment when spoken maliciously and in a deceitful manner.
    - d. Philip Ryken – "Is what I am about to say true? If so, does it really need to be said to this person in this conversation? Would I put it this way if the person I'm talking about were here to listen?"
    - e. Thomas Watson – "He that raises a slander, carries the devil in his tongue; and he that receives it, carries the devil in his ear."
  2. Flattery – either of ourselves or others. It is another form of deception  
**Psalms 12:2-3 NAU** - " They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. <sup>3</sup> May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things"  
**Proverbs 26:28 NAU** - "A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin."

- a. All commendation is not flattery. Flattery is that spoken deceptively with the agenda of personal gain using vain compliments
  - b. This is a sin of deception - Flattery is dishonest  
The flatterer is just using people for his own personal gain
  - 3. Falsehood includes speaking all that is untrue, misleading.
    - a. It should be noted that *how* we say something can be just as important as *what* we say.
    - b. We might say something that is “technically true” while our intention is to deceive.
  - D. Falsehood no longer characterizes us
    - 1. Paul is assuming that we have put it away  
“Since you have put away falsehood” or “having put away falsehood”
    - 2. A lying tongue is not the Christian tongue  
Yet, our tongue is unruly and difficult to control. So we are commanded to put off the old and put on the new
    - 3. Assuming that falsehood no longer characterizes us Paul turns to the positive characteristic consistent with the new self – see **Verses 22-24**.
- II. The positive – “Speak truth each one of you”
- A. For the believer truth should permeate our entire existence.
    - 1. Our words should testify of our renewed heart  
**Ephesians 4:23** - "that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind"
    - 2. Speaking truth exposes the condition of our heart. The heart will eventually overflow into speech, either falsehood or truth  
**Matthew 12:35-37 NAU** - "The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. <sup>36</sup> "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
    - 3. The lost man can only stay silent for a short time – His evil heart will overflow into evil words. He will soon begin to speak lies.  
**James 3:7-8 NAU** - "For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. <sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison."
    - 4. The same is true for a righteous man – His righteous heart will overflow into good words - he will speak of good things, of truth and righteousness.
  - B. Paul is basically saying to his readers, “Be what you are!”  
Put off the old and put on the new. We are now bearing the marks of the divine nature. Everything about God is the personification of truth
    - 1. God the Father is truth  
**Romans 3:4 NAU** - "let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar"  
**Titus 1:2 NAU** - "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,"

2. Jesus the Son is truth  
**John 1:14 NAU** - "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."  
**John 14:6 NAU** - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
  3. The Holy Spirit is truth – 1 John 4:6 refers to Him as "the spirit of truth"  
 Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit this way: **John 14:16-17 NAU** - "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> *that is* the Spirit of truth"
  4. The Bible declares itself to be truth  
**John 17:17 NAU** - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."
  5. The Gospel is referred to as the truth  
**1 Timothy 2:4 NAU** - "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
- B. If God is truth then we must do everything we can to promote truth  
 "Speak truth each one of you"
1. Notice Paul is maintaining the context of the entire chapter. He is still promoting unity.  
**Ephesians 4:2-3 NAU** - "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."  
 Now he says:  
**Ephesians 4:25 NAS** - "speak truth, each one *of you*, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."
  2. We should promote honesty, fairness.  
 We should "speak the truth in love" – Verse 15
  3. We should defend those who are wrongly accused or unfairly attacked.
  4. We should say and think the truth about one another  
**1 Corinthians 13:6-7 NAU** - "*Love . . .* does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."
- C. This has great corporate implications:  
 Paul wrote to Timothy that the Church was the pillar and support of truth
1. Each one of us should help the church in this great work
  2. We must hold high the Word of God which God has placed in our stewardship
  3. We must maintain sound doctrine  
**Titus 2:1 NAU** - "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."
  4. We must also maintain the purity of worship – true worship  
**John 4:23-24 NAU** - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. <sup>24</sup> "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

5. It is the responsibility of the church to spread the truth. We make disciples and then teach them.  
**Matthew 28:19-20 NAU** - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- C. It is our responsibility to protect the truth and pass it on to the next generation
1. The importance of creeds and confessions, catechisms
  2. As the church de-emphasizes doctrine and truth it will become more and more infected with man-made doctrines and practices  
 Paul says, "Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth"

#### Conclusion:

1. Remember we are talking about matters of the heart. We must cease thinking only of ourselves. We must seek to love all men and speak those things that will edify and build them up.
2. We must also make sure we fill our minds with truth – what we put in will ultimately come out.  
**Philippians 4:8 NAU** - "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."  
 KJV – "think on these things."  
**Ephesians 4:23 NAU** - "that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind"