

Paul's Radical "Therefore" (Ephesians 4:25)

- Paul's instruction to: Ephesian Christians is practical & pointed in its application
- You are no longer what you were, as new creations put off the old man
- Certain general principles govern each of these detailed application of the truths
- Paul's "therefore" (25) tells us that truth not just a thing to be regarded objectively
- Truth must be applied by faith through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit
- The purpose of all doctrine & knowledge: lead us to imitate Christ & walk in love.

I. Paul's Pattern of Teaching

- Paul sets forth his ethics & morality in a significant way, outflow of the Spirit
1. His **negative**: He tells us what we mustn't do, "**putting away lying**"
 2. His **positive**: he tells us what we must do, "**let each one of you speak the truth**"
 3. His reason/ **motivation** for this action: "**for we are members one of another**"
- Our motivation & direction: imitation of Christ who gave himself up for us (5:1)

II. Difference Between Pagan Moralism & the Christian's Life of Faith

- Christians do not have a monopoly on ethical and moral teaching in the world
 - There are pagan and humanistic moralities which abound in our fallen world
 - Many believe Christianity is all about not doing this but doing this: do's & don'ts
1. *Pagan morality: moralism is an end in itself*
 - **Christianity** Who Christ is, what He's done, how He's done it, why He's done it.
 2. *Pagan morality: always assume natural ability (though they use Christian jargon)*
 - Christianity – presumes one thing – we are helpless and need to be regenerated
 3. *Pagan morality: apart from Christ it leads to self-righteousness & pride*
 - Christianity- always keeps us humble we have no strength in our flesh
 4. *Pagan morality: always leaves the old man untouched but tries to clean him up*
 - Christianity: God creates a new man, a new nature, new creation, new heart
 5. *Pagan morality: only slows down outbreaks of evil practices, reform not transform*
 - Christianity: deals with the whole person the very heart and soul of a man
 6. *Pagan morality: deals with repression, it knows nothing of expression*
 - Christianity: put away, turn away, turn to, lay hold of, walk in...
 7. *Pagan morality is cold & hard*
 - Christianity : warm and hopeful, for the poor and broken hearted.