



Poema
“Prove It!”

Ephesians 4:25-32

There are many people who claim they are going to heaven when they die. They rely on this eternal destiny and point to a past event in order to have the assurance and confidence to make such a claim. The Bible makes it clear the guarantee of eternal life is not only in a one-time decision *about* Christ, but can also be found in a life of consistent change and obedience that *reflects* Christ. (**cf. 1 John 2:1-4**)

God is not progressively making new creatures in Christ – He has already made a new creation. Earlier in Ephesians, Paul taught that we have died to sin and that our old sinful nature has been crucified. He now shows in verses 25-32 how the proof of that new nature can be demonstrated in very practical ways.

We have been transformed from speaking lies to speaking truth.

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25)

This is a specific command for the true follower of Christ: speak the truth. Since the fall, lying has been a common characteristic of the unregenerate mankind. Lying includes more than simply telling direct falsehoods. It also includes exaggeration, and adding falsehood to that which begins as true.

Lying is being like Satan. Jesus calls him the father of lies. Satan lied to Eve about God. Then, when questioned by God, Adam also lied about his decision to sin – blaming it on Eve. Lying is no doubt in the DNA of the old sinful nature.

We have been transformed from illegitimate anger to righteous anger.

“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)

The Greek word for **angry** means, **“deep-seated, determined, and settled conviction.”** In the New Testament it is used to represent an emotion that can be either good or bad, depending on motive and purpose. This is not momentary, outward, boiling-over rage or inward, seething resentment. Those are self-control issues.

We have been transformed from stealing to sharing.

“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” (Ephesians 4:28)

Thieves are selfish and lazy people. Such characteristics are not to be part of the Christian life.

We have been transformed from offensive and dishonorable speech to edifying speech.

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Ephesians 4:29-30)

Much is said about one’s right of “free speech” these days. However, Scripture does not teach that we have a right to “free speech.” We must be reminded that whatever comes out of our mouth is a reflection of Christ. We represent Christ even in what we say. ***“...corrupting talk...”*** in the Greek, refers to that which is corrupt or foul and was used of rotten fruit, vegetables, or other spoiled food. Corrupt communication does nothing to either build up or encourage another person. It also does not properly represent the Lord Jesus.

Whatever violates the will of God and the holiness of the heart will grieve the Holy Spirit. This can also lead to quenching the Holy Spirit, which is a forfeiture of power and blessing. Never forget the Holy Spirit is a Person. He is the One whom Jesus sent to us, and with whom we are to be in an intimate spiritual relationship.

We have been transformed from natural vices to supernatural virtues.

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31-32)

Man’s natural tendency is to sin, and the natural tendency of sin is to grow into greater sin. A Christian’s sin will grow just like that of an unbeliever. If not checked, our inner sins of ***“bitterness and wrath and anger...”*** will inevitably lead to the outward sins of ***“...clamor, slander...with all malice...”***

Are we living out our transformation or are we allowing the darkness from which we have been transferred to overcome us? Are we daily demonstrating real proof that we have been delivered from ***“...the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son...”***?

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