

SERMON: Foul Mouth

Ephesians 4:17-32



WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU THINKING:

Ephesians 4:17-24

¹⁷With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²²throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

CHRIST CHANGES EVERYTHING:

Ephesians 4:25-28

²⁵So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷for anger gives a foothold to the devil. ²⁸If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.

EVEN HOW YOU SPEAK:

Ephesians 4:29-32

²⁹Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. ³⁰And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³²Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS:

SHARE: What, if any, were the words that were “off limits” in your home growing up? Why?

READ: Ephesians 4:17-19. What is the picture that is painted here for a world view that does not include or respect God? How do you see that at work in the world around you today?



READ: Ephesians 4:20-23. How do these verses describe life once Christ is in control? Do you sense the difference in your life that Christ brings?

READ: Ephesians 4:25-28. If lying includes any time we seek to deceive others, where in your life are you most likely to lie? What are the reasons we lie? What is the impact of lying?

READ Ephesians 4:29. What do you consider “Foul” language? Where are you most likely to hear foul or abusive language?

SHARE: How has someone’s words build you up? How can you be a better life builder with your words? Who is one person you have hurt with your words? How can you build them up with your words this week?

READ: Ephesians 4:30 On a scale of one to five, (one being sad, five being very happy) how would the Holy Spirit feel about your typical daily language? Why?

READ: Ephesians 4:31, How do the attitudes and actions described in this verse hinder your communication with others? Which of these do you need to get a better handle on?

READ: Ephesians 4:32. With this verse in mind, where do you have work to do? With whom do you need to start?

PRAY: