

How Then Shall We Live Together?

1. What is falsehood (4:25)? How is it different than a lie? Can you share a time when you failed or succeeded to “[put] away” falsehood from your life?
2. Paul tells the Ephesians in verse 26 to “be angry and do not sin...” What does this teach you about the emotion of anger? Can you point to any times when Jesus was angry?
3. What more is Paul teaching about us and about anger when he adds, “Do not let the sun go down on your anger”? How does anger create an “opportunity” for Satan? (26, 27)
4. Paul moves the discussion from anger to thievery in verse 28. What is the three-step progression Paul urges for the thief? Whose interest was the former thief concerned with? Whose interest is the transformed thief to be concerned with now?
5. From verse 29, how would you define “corrupting talk”? Examining yourself, how do you need to recalibrate your thinking and your habits regarding “corrupting talk”? Paul encourages us to use our mouths for good and outlines three characteristics of good speech – what are they? How will you purpose to use your mouth for good?
6. In our minds v. 30 seems connected to inner or secret sins, but the context here is actually our speech. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit, especially by our speech? Why is “corrupting talk” highlighted as grieving the Holy Spirit?
7. Paul tells us to be kind (useful) and tender-hearted (compassionate) toward one another in verse 32. Share a specific example (without giving names) of a time when reflecting upon Jesus’ forgiveness of you moved you to forgive someone else.
8. What do children communicate to their parents when they imitate them? What do we communicate when we imitate God, and how do we best do that? (5:1)
9. What is required for us to “walk in love” (5:2)? How is this achievable for us when we are sinners ourselves, unable to make the same sacrifice for sin that Christ made? Share a time when you found yourself “walking in love.”
10. Choose one of these topics God has put on your heart to pray about and seek change, or to reinforce and act upon. Share your answer with the group.

Falsehood	Kindness (usefulness)
Holding on to anger	Tenderheartedness (Compassion)
Corrupt Speech	Forgiveness