

God pleasing Talk

Ephesians 4:29-32

“Saving grace and sanctifying grace make it possible for us to please God with our talk”

1. Grace the foundation

The new life in Christ given to us by the Father 1:3-2:10

(3) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**

(5) In love he predestined us for adoption
It was according to the purpose of his will

(6) To the praise of his glorious grace!!!

(7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us...

(9) He made know to us the mystery of his will

(11) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him

(13) We were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it...

The new society he has created 2:11-3:21

Notice how often the words US, WE, OUR are used in the this book beginning in chapter 1

In chapters 1:3-2:10 we observed us being alienated from God

In the second half of this chapter we see humans depicted as alienated from each other

(11)Therefore REMEMBER that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh

(12) Remember that you were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world

(13) **But now in Christ Jesus you** who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.”

(19-22) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **HERE IT IS... Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF BEING THE CORNERSTONE**

In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In HIM you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by his Spirit

“Unless the church is **CONSTANTLY** and **SECURLY** related to Christ, the church’s unity will disintegrate and it’s growth will either stop or run wild” (John Stott)

Wherever God’s people are found, that’s where God dwells
In all our interactions with one another... there is a statement being made... God lives there

In chapter 3:10 Paul say... Through the church the manifold wisdom of God is on display... his wisdom is on display to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places... it’s on display to the world, to your neighbors, your co-workers

The new standards that are required, expected of those he has called his own 4:1-5:21

4:1 “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord... he is under house arrest so in the practical sense he is a prisoner but he sees himself as well bound to Christ with chains of love and in custody out of loyalty to his gospel”

As Paul has been writing the last 3 chapters... he concludes with a doxology... **READ** from verse 14-21

I urge you... I beg you... to live a holy life... make every effort to **KEEP** this unity (of the Spirit), which has been given you by Christ

For the rest of the book Paul moves on to the new standards which are expected of those who have been given this new life and are apart of the new society

He turns from exposition... breaking out the truth about what has already taken place for those who are in Christ to now exhorting.

He has told them what God has done... now he moves on to what we must be and do

Because the foundation under you is grace... the building must be built a certain way

You can't say "I want the house to look like this" or "I prefer that we do the rooms like this" no, we should be amazed that we even get the privilege of being apart of this glorious building

It must be built to code

Here's the specs... these are the necessary materials to build a dwelling place for God

(2) CHARACTER – Humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love

(3-6) KEEPING THE UNITY CREATED BY GOD – Being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit

(7-12) DIVERSITY OF GIFTS – Each one has been given gifts to use

(13-16) TAKING GROWTH SERIOUSLY – reaching the full measure of the stature of Christ

We do this by speaking the truth in love to one another

(17-24) TAKING THE NEW LIFE SERIOUSLY – put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness

For the rest of the chapter Paul unpacks the "new self" materials

(25) Don't tell lies but rather tell the truth

(26-27) don't lose your temper, but rather make sure your anger is righteous

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity for the devil"

(28) Don't steal, but rather work and give

And then we come to our text where for the rest of this morning and next Sunday we will be camping out

(29) "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

2. Corrupting talk that tares down

What is corrupting talk?

Unwholesome talk – evil or rotten talk... this would include words of complaining, sneering, cynical, sarcastic type, all of which spread demoralization in a community

Talk that is rotten and spreads rottenness
Worthless talk leads others to think on the worthless

This type of talk is destructive to Christian fellowship... it's destructive to anything ever being built...

Our talk is going in either one of two directions... it's either going towards life (encouraging, comforting, peaceful, upbuilding, grateful, unifying and loving) or towards death (angry, hurtful, slanderous, selfish, bitter, divisive, and demeaning)

If we invest our mouths in death talk the harvest we reap is a harvest of fear, discouragement, falsehood, division, and sadness

If we invest in life talk the harvest is comfort, hope, encouragement, insight, unity and joy

I don't think there is anyone in this room that could say... all my words are well-intentioned and appropriately spoken? If so... you are a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body. James 3:2

Who here has not hurt someone with words or used words for selfish purposes? Used words to speak death verses life

(3:5) "The tongue is a small member, yet it boast of great things"
(8) No one human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison

(3:9-12) 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, [1] these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Have you ever tried to stop talking bad about people, stop talking down to others, your wife, your family?

I've tried... I usually last a few hours maybe and then I'm back at it.

Why? Because the real issue is not the tongue... the real issue is the heart

Matthew 15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

“Have you ever said, “Oops, I didn’t mean to say that!” often it would be more accurate to say, “I’m sorry I said what I meant!” if the thought, attitude, desire, emotion, or purpose hadn’t been in your heart, it wouldn’t have come out of your mouth.” (Tim Lane, Paul Tripp. Relationships a mess worth making)

Wouldn’t it have been nice if when we were converted he cleaned us up perfectly once and for all? No more corrupting talk... everything that flowed out of your heart through your lips was always encouraging and edifying... always building others up

That is not the real world... the reality is that the power of sin has been broken over us but the presence of sin still remains
So we fight this battle against our sinful hearts with the power of the gospel... the Spirit who is the guarantee of our future inheritance is actively, daily at work in us

Application:

- a. **Look back** before time and see God your Father calling you. Where would you be today had the Lord not in his kindness called you out of darkness into his marvelous light
- b. **Look around** you and see God’s children whom he shed his blood for... the redeemed ones... called for a purpose. To represent him well... to be his house to live in
This morning you may have received fresh conviction about an area where you have been, by your talk tarring down rather than building up... where you have been grieving the Holy Spirit by your talk. Can I encourage you to repent? You may need to go to someone after the service and ask their forgiveness
- c. **Look up** and see him who has forgiven all your sin. Let all your hope be in him, in his Spirit to change you from the inside out

I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called