

## **This Year Will Be Different**

### **Pt. 2: Clean Clothes**

#### **Eph. 4:25-32**

#### **Introduction:**

- A. Our faith is not just about what we put off, it's also about what we put on.
- B. Change is hard. Perhaps this is why so many of us struggle with making changes in our lives.
- C. Let's consider five areas in our lives where Paul challenges us to make changes.

#### **Speak Truth (v. 25)**

- A. Honesty and integrity are becoming harder characteristics to find in our culture.
- B. Many in our world are quick to compromise truth when it benefits them.
- C. Satan is the Father of lies (Jn. 8:44). Every time we lie we are imitating the devil.
- D. We must be willing to speak the truth even when it's difficult but we must always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

#### **Seize Self-Control (vs. 26-27)**

- A. There are some things that should make us angry (EX: injustice, sin, abuse, etc.).
- B. We should never allow our anger to take control over us and cause us to sin (Gen. 4:4-7; I Sam. 18:6-9).
- C. Paul gives some wise counsel. Don't allow your anger to linger. If we harbor anger we give the devil an opportunity to destroy things.

#### **Share Blessings (v. 28)**

- A. When we use our blessings to share and bless the lives of others, God is pleased (Heb. 13:16).
- B. When we use our blessings to share and bless the lives of others, it's as if we are ministering to God Himself (Prov. 19:17; Matt. 25:31-46).
- C. When we use our blessing to share and bless the lives of others, we demonstrate our love and faith (Jn. 13:34-35; Jam. 2:14-17).

#### **Serve Encouragement (v. 29)**

- A. Words have tremendous power (Prov. 18:21).
- B. While many of us would never use foul language or profanity, we will use our words to bring down and even destroy the character of others (Jam. 3:1-12).
- C. We will give an account and be judged for the words that we speak (Matt. 12:36-37).

#### **Spread Kindness (vs. 31-32)**

- A. Be Kind and forgiving. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
- B. Kindness can go a long way. It can make a difference in someone's life in ways we may never realize.

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. Friends, when we deviate from the will of God it breaks the heart of the Father.
- B. Let's set out to make this year different by not living like an unbeliever but by living like a believer who has been bought with the precious blood of Christ.