

This is what the walk of a Christian should look like. It's God's 'new walk'; it's Jesus' life through ours! We see it involves speaking truth, being righteously angry, dealing with even godly anger by sundown, beneficial labor, edifying words, being kind, tender-hearted, acting in grace, imitating God, and walking in love!

These practices are the result of learning, hearing, and being taught Jesus (truth is in Him!): that every Christian has laid aside the old man, is to continually be renewed in his/her mind, and has put on the new man, the righteous, holy man of God's creation. This understanding and 'thinking' must precede any actions we take in terms of speech/behavior/choice. Based on the truths of **:20-24**, Paul deals with something to be laid aside, something to be put on, and the reason why.

:25-32 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity (a place). He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one (lit. the one) who has need. Let no unwholesome (rotten) word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need (of the need) of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by (in) whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness & wrath & anger & clamor & slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

:25 Having once for all discarded THE falsehood (deception, lying, speaking falsely, misrepresenting, exaggerating, misleading, holding back the truth), put on (a command) **speaking truth**, THE truth as it is in Jesus and in line with the righteous and holy people God has made us as Christians. You may have been known as a deceiver, but as a Christian, it's no longer who you are! You're now reliable, truthful, with your words; you're conforming your words to the truth as found in Jesus. He is the truth. His Word is truth. Neighbor = anyone near!

Replace falsehood with speaking truth; why? **Because we're members of one another.** We are Jesus' one Body. Carefully examine the words you use, the tone in which you speak, and your non-verbal communication. What I say affects others. What another Christian says affects me. Laying aside falsehood, speak truth each of you, we're one!

:26-27 Laying aside sinful anger and putting on righteous anger [orgē depends on context, who/what's the source, its intent). This quote from **Ps. 4:4**. There are two kinds of anger: (1) Righteous (just, right) anger which God and Jesus display and is part of the new, righteous, holy creation and walk of God. (2) Sinful, unjust anger which is of the flesh and is destructive, characteristic of the old man and the non-Christian walk.

Be [righteously] **angry**. This is the 1st of 4 commands in **:26-7**. When the anger is unselfish and based on love for God and concern for others, it's commanded. It's a determined and settled conviction, based on truth in Jesus, a choice, & can only be practiced when strengthened with power by the Spirit. **Rom. 1:18** Be angry at ungodliness (sins against God, suppression of known

facts about God) & unrighteousness (unjust, when another person is mistreated).

Keep laying aside sinful anger. The 2nd command. This is anger that is out of control, hurts another, consumes one, is selfish and vindictive. This kind of impulsive anger does not achieve the righteousness of God (**James 1:20**).

Don't let the sun go down on your anger [parorgizo, irritation, slowly built up]. A 3rd command: whether the anger is just or unjust, deal with it by sundown. No anger is to outlast the day. Don't make it a practice of harboring anger overnight, even if justified.

Stop giving the devil an opportunity. The 4th command, realize the slanderer wants to deceive and destroy. He'll use the open doors of unjust and prolonged anger as opportunities to cause division and destroy love and truth.

You may have been an angry person as a non-Christian, but it's no longer who you are! All these commands reveal when we're walking by faith and when we aren't. Self-control is something only the Holy Spirit can produce!

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Abandon the practice of theft, whether it's money, time, ideas. By failing to give an honest day's work, failing to report income to the IRS, shoplifting, not paying back a debt, padding expense account, reporting more hours than were worked, not paying fair wages, when we don't give our best work, waste time, arrive late or leave early at work. Stealing reveals unconcern for someone else; it is a self-centered, old-man practice to satisfy your own needs & wants.

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Replace with useful, helpful, building-up, appropriate, gracious words. The words used should be chosen based on the specific need, as fits the occasion. When you share with words, make sure they line up with Jesus (THE truth), His written words, and who you are now in Him.

Why? It's so 'grace' is revealed. The person doesn't 'deserve' such words but those are the words we give. As with actions, words are often indicators of whether walking by the Spirit or by the flesh. Would my kids, grandkids, neighbors, fellow workers know I'm a follower of Jesus by the words I use?

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Stop grieving Him. The Holy Spirit is grieved when we refuse to change the old walk of sin for those righteous and holy ways of the new life. The old practices of **4:25-5:21** cause Him sorrow, pain, distress. Not putting on the new practices of **4:25-5:21** also grieves Him. He is grieved when we aren't continually being renewed in our thinking, recognizing the old man has been laid aside & the new man created in holiness & righteousness has been put on.

We were sealed (aorist passive). Once for all, done to us; believers are the recipients of the sealing. **For the day of redemption (1:7,** payment of a ransom). The Spirit is the guarantee that we'll arrive at the great day of the summing up of all things in Christ (**1:10,13-14**). At that time, even our bodies will be redeemed (**Rom. 8:23**); we'll be set free from even the presence of sin.

The 'old-man' practices grieve the HOLY Spirit of God (they break His heart), and they are foreign to the HOLY person you have become in Christ. Stop it! "Holy Spirit, we want to be filled with You, strengthened with Your power."

:31-32 The practices of **:31** grieve the Spirit. Not putting on the practices of **:32** grieves Him. **Be put away from you:** A command, a one-time decisive act. Passive, we can't put it away in ourselves but must depend on the Holy Spirit.

Let every kind of: **Bitterness**, a reply or action that stings. **Wrath** [passion-given behavior] means rage, losing your temper, a violent outburst. **Anger** [orgē] is internal smoldering, more settled, long-lived. It's the "**Don't sin**" anger of **:26**. **Clamor** is to abuse by shouting, to yell at others, an outburst revealing loss of control. "If you have to win an argument by raising your voice, you haven't won!" **Slander** is insulting, injuring speech, degrading another with words (review **:29**). **Malice** [inherent] means badness in quality, mean. It takes delight in inflicting hurt. Let any/all of these be put away from you!!

:32 Instead, **be kind, tender-hearted, acting in grace.** These are choices, to be made in the strength of the indwelling Holy Spirit. **Kindness** (a fruit of the Spirit) refers to words and actions that benefit others. **Tender-hearted** means expressing the heart of compassion our Lord has given you, lit. having good kidneys! Reflects what is deep inside, is used of Jesus in **Mt. 9:36**.

Forgiving is not the usual word for forgive (aphiemi, to put/send away), but a charizomai = to grant something undeserved. It includes forgiveness but is broader. Used of Jesus in **Lk. 7:42-43**. It means to treat an offending party graciously. We are to literally '**act in grace**' toward one another, **just as God in Christ has acted in grace toward us**, as freely and completely as God! (1) God is a gracious God, (2) He has been gracious to us, and (3) He will be gracious through us as we trust Him. Once for all, completely; we are to imitate Him! Make the choice in the Spirit's strength to be gracious; then we don't rehearse their ungracious responses (1) with others, (2) with the person who doesn't deserve our love, or (3) with ourselves.

Put off falsehood, sinful anger, prolonged anger, stealing, rotten words,

bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice. They are practices of the old man, which you no longer are!! They grieve the Spirit. Don't 'do' who you aren't!

Instead, speak truth, be righteously angry yet dealing with even righteous anger by sundown. Work hard to produce beneficial things, speak only building up words. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, acting in grace. These are practices of the new man you now are, created by God Himself in righteousness and holiness and truth. Only the Spirit can produce these.

Why these God-pleasing practices? Because we are members of one another. So you won't give the devil an opportunity. So you have something to share with the one who has need. So your words will give grace to those who hear. So you don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God. So you're an imitator of God and you're walking in love (**5:1-2**). Paul will continue on in **5:1-6:9** to contrast the practices of the new man with the old man's, and the reasons why.

If you struggled with certain 'old-man' practices before you became a Christian, it's likely you'll still be tempted to revert to the same 'old-man' practices after becoming a Christian. I call these 'flesh patterns'. Temptation in any of these areas is powerful! Assume you are going to be tempted.

You may have been known as a liar, angry person, thief, a speaker of rotten words, etc. before you became a Christian, but now as a 'new man', it's no longer who you are! So make sure you're strengthened with power through the Spirit and walking in line with who you are and in line with God's words.

I often use God's written words like a helpful warning light, to let me know when I'm being strengthened through the Spirit and when I'm not, when I'm thinking, talking, and behaving like the 'new-man' I am IN Christ and when I'm not.

Practical Ways to Apply God's Word:

1. Start with Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
2. As part of your Immediate Family, you have a responsible role to play. Husband: a loving head. Wife: a supportive companion. Parent: don't provoke your child to anger or exasperate him/her so they lose heart; do bring them up in the discipline & instruction of the Lord. Child: obey and honor your parents.
3. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11**). Also, consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24-25). Do good to all Gal. 6:10.
4. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, and Eph. 4:20-6:18** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
5. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you're continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there's a steady input from God's Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there's a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian. Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).

Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

Each action concerns our relationships. Once made alive, raised up, seated with Christ, His workmanship, saints, fellow-citizens with the saints, of God's household, a holy temple, a dwelling of God, God creating us holy and righteous, our walk should reveal who we now are! These practices to be laid aside may have characterized who you used to be, but are foreign to the new person you've become.

:25 Having laid aside (aorist middle passive) **THE falsehood, put on** (present imperative) **truthful speech**. Falsehood is consistent with the old man and the non-Christian walk. Perhaps thinking a lie will get us out of a difficulty or protect us or make ourselves look good. It includes cheating in school or on income tax returns, misleading someone with words or maybe with a lack of words (not truthing it in love). The manner of life of the old man was falsehood. Decisively cast off deceptive speech and falsehood! (lit. having put off once for all THE lie!)

Speak truth (present active imperative) (**1:13, 4:21,24,25, 5:9, 6:14**) **each one of you with his neighbor**. Quoting **Zech. 8:16**. Both conduct and speech are truthful and expressed in love. Remember, the walk begins in the mind. No personal relationships can be successful unless they are held together by the truth. One must be able to trust the other person's words. Speaking truth demands a continual, deliberate effort. Command: each Christian is responsible to speak the truth, **4:15**, truth it in love! We who have learned Jesus (**4:20**) must be men and women of truth, patterning our walk on the truth as it is in Him.

For we are (present) **members of one another**. Imagine your physical body members lying and deceiving each other. Deception or not speaking truth by one member not only harms that member but the whole Body suffers as well. Because we are members of one another, we need to speak lovingly, freely, and openly with one another. Make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit (**4:2-3**).

:26-27 Be angry (present passive imperative). It's not the outward, boiling-over and soon subsiding rage (**:31 wrath**) or seething resentment or a feeling. It is used of anger against injustice against another or for blaspheming God's name. It's in line with God's truth. It is done to bring glory to God. It can only be practiced when relying on the power of the indwelling Spirit. Only He can produce it. **Ps. 4:4**, the Hebrew verb means to tremble. It could be with fear or anger. The Psalmist acknowledges God's past help and asks to be heard. He then addresses the sons of men. "Tremble (with anger) but don't sin". This kind of anger is free from injured pride, a desire to injure, hatred, selfishness, and the spirit of revenge. Righteous anger is anger towards sins against God and others. Gross injustice, ungodliness, indifference to Him or the needs of mankind make God angry, and should make us angry. Jesus was angry when the Father was maligned or when others were mistreated. (When Jesus Himself was treated unfairly, see **1 Pet. 2:21-25**.) There should be anger in the Christian's life, but it must be God's kind. Practice God's kind of anger. Unrighteousness/injustice is something that is not right in God's sight, often manifested in how one treats others.

Do not sin (present active imperative), commanding a continuous action; keep laying it aside. Become angry, only be sure (a command) you do not miss God's mark. Sinful anger usually includes bitterness, revenge, hatred, unforgiveness, holding a grudge, harsh words, harmful reactions, and is Biblically unjustifiable.

Do not let the sun go down (present active imperative) **on your anger**. Don't let it continue overnight. The day of the anger should also be the day of dealing with it.

Don't give (present active imperative) **the devil an opportunity**. The commands in **:26-27** are: be angry; do not sin; don't let the sun go down; don't give the devil an opportunity. The action is ongoing and must be stopped. The devil/slanderer is a murderer and a liar (**Jn. 8:44**), a destroyer of life & a deceiver. **2 Cor. 2:10-11**. When anger begins to control the believer (even overnight) rather than trusting the Spirit to control the anger, the devil strikes. Yes, practice righteous anger but don't sin; don't let the anger simmer overnight. Your unrighteous anger or prolonged anger give the devil an opportunity to deceive and destroy.

:28 He who is stealing (present active participle) **must steal** (present active imperative) **no longer**. Paul includes thieves among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God (**1 Cor. 6:10**). A command: the one who is stealing, let him no longer be stealing. The 8th commandment (**Ex. 20:15, Dt. 5:19**). Many think stealing is simply a game in which getting caught is the only cause for regret or shame. The old man thinks the world owes him/her. Stealing is a practice of the old man, and it's part of the old walk. Stop it!

Remember who God has created you. **He must labor** (present active imperative), **performing** (present middle or passive participle) **with his own hands what is good**. To stop stealing is only part of the process of walking as a Christian. Remember, we didn't just lay aside the old man; we put on the new man. Another command. It is not enough to cease from stealing. Paul set an example himself of hard work (**Acts 20:34, 1 Cor. 4:12, 1 Th. 4:11**). Jesus worked as a carpenter, Luke practiced medicine, David tended sheep. Start working, earning your own living. **2 Th. 3:10-11, 1 Tim. 5:8**. Kopiaio signifies strenuous work that produces fatigue. Do the good (good in quality, the useful, beneficial thing) according to God's standards, not the world's.

Why? **So that he'll have** (present active) **something to share** (present active) **with the one who has** (present active participle) **need**. Instead of taking from others, as thieves do, the new man must start contributing to those who have need. Sense real need and then share the fruit of your hard labor. **Acts 2:45, 4:35, Rom. 15:26-27, 1 Cor. 16:1-4, 1 Tim. 6:17-19** presents an interesting perspective.

:29 Language is a wonderful gift of God. Our words should reflect renewed thinking and who we are in Christ. **Let no unwholesome word proceed** (present middle or passive imperative) **from your mouth**. Lit. **let no rotten words come out of your mouths!** The Greek is "Every word that is corrupt, out of your mouth let it not proceed." The present imperative has the force of cessation of activity in progress. Stop it! It's used of withered flowers. Words that demean, dishonor, cut down, are abusive (**Col. 3:8**); they hurt or dishearten the hearer. No one can tame the tongue (**Jm. 3:6-8**). Only God can. Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips (**Ps. 141:3**).

Only such a word as is good for edification. **Col. 4:6** Let your speech always be with grace. Not only will Christians do 'the good' (**:28**); they will also speak what is good. Opposite of rotten, injurious. Every word is to be accounted for. When he speaks, he builds up, comforts, or stimulates others to good (**Heb. 10:24-25**).

According to the need of the moment. The words are chosen that contribute and fill a need.

So that it will give (aorist) **grace to those who hear** (present active participle). The new man asks, “Is my verbal response ministering grace to the hearer?” The Christian is to be strengthened with power through the Spirit, recognize he/she’s a new man, and control his/her speech so it is building, fit for use, gracious. Yes, sometimes they include reproof or correction, but those too are building up when done in the Spirit’s strength, in line with the Word, for God’s glory, and for the person’s good. As a Christian, practice God’s edifying words, words that address the need of the moment, words that comfort, encourage, teach, reprove, correct, train, and extend grace. Because we want to pass on the grace we’ve received from our gracious God, make sure your words are building up and gracious. Unwholesome words are tearing down; they are not fitting; they are ‘ungracious’!

:30 And do not grieve (present active imperative) **the Holy Spirit of God.** Another command! Every Spirit-filled believer desires to bring Him pleasure, not pain. Whether speaking falsehood, practicing unrighteous or prolonged anger, stealing, speaking unwholesome words, practicing bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice, immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk, or coarse jesting: these practices are the walk of the old man, but as Christians we aren’t the old man anymore! The Holy Spirit is a person, not just an influence, for only a person can be grieved. He’s always within our bodies. Any thinking and/or practice that endangers the unity of the Body of Christ grieves Him. In this context, unwholesome words grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Stop speaking them.

By whom you were sealed (aorist passive) **for the day of redemption.** We long for that certain day! “Spirit, we thank You that You are the HOLY one, permanently living within our bodies. We thank You that You are the pledge of our inheritance. We thank You that You have sealed us for that future day of redemption of our bodies (**Rom. 8:23**).”

:31-32 Put off bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice. Put on kindness, tender-heartedness, and forgiveness. **:30** fits with these 6 negatives.

:31 Let every kind of, everything belonging to these 6 practices, be put away from you. A command. These practices are part of the old man and walk.

Bitterness: pointed/sharp/bitter. **Wrath:** hotheaded passion. A violent outburst of anger, quickly boiling up and soon subsiding. **Slander:** Trying to destroy a reputation. Abusive speech. **Be put away** (aorist passive imperative) **from you.** **Along with all malice:** Wicked.

:32 Be (present middle or passive imperative) **kind to one another.** A command. As opposed to harsh/bitter/sharp, be kind. **Lk. 6:35** For God Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. **Tender-hearted:** used in **Col. 3:12, 1 Pet. 3:8.** **Forgiving** (present middle or passive participle) **each other.** Forgiving = “Do a favor to”. Giving freely: used of Jesus (**Lk. 7:21,42-43,47**), to grant something undeserved. The concept is broader than forgiveness but includes forgiveness.

Just as God in Christ also has forgiven (aorist middle indicative) **you.** **Read 1:7.** Remember the new covenant (**Heb. 8:10-12; FHIDLS**; He remembers our sins no more!). Once for all, completely; we are to imitate Him! This practice

rules out such statements as, “Well, I can choose to act in grace toward him, but I can’t forget what he did to me!” God chooses to forget! And we can begin to forget also. Our acting in grace is to be as free and complete as His! Realize God Himself won’t bring up the dealt-with issue again, so if it does come to mind, it’s a fleshly or demonic attack. Making the choice in the Spirit’s strength to be gracious as He is.

These characteristics can only be lived out as we are filled with the Spirit.

“Thank You for Your kindness, tender-heartedness, and acting in grace to us! May we freely and willingly trust You and choose to allow You to pass on Your characteristics through us!”

CONCL TO 4:25-32 Use the commands of Scripture and the fruit of the Spirit as checkpoints to reveal whether we’re walking by faith or not; when we’re strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit; when we’re laying hold of and experiencing the love of Christ; and when we’re filled up to all the fullness of God. We who have learned and heard and been taught in Jesus must be men and women who walk in line with the truth that Jesus is and is in Him.

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Put off falsehood, sinful anger, prolonged anger, stealing, rotten words,

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Why these God-pleasing practices? Because we are members of one another. So you won't give the devil an opportunity. So you have something to share with the one who has need. So your words will give grace to those who hear. So you don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God. So you're an imitator of God and you're walking in love (**5:1-2**). Paul will continue on in **5:1-6:9** to contrast the practices of the new man with the old man's, and the reasons why.

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This is what the walk of a Christian should look like. It's God's 'new walk'; it's Jesus' life through ours! We see it involves speaking truth, being righteously angry, dealing with even godly anger by sundown, beneficial labor, edifying words, being kind, tender-hearted, acting in grace, imitating God, and walking in love!

These practices are the result of learning, hearing, and being taught Jesus (truth is in Him!): that every Christian has laid aside the old man, is to continually be renewed in his/her mind, and has put on the new man, the righteous, holy man of God's creation. This understanding and 'thinking' must precede any actions we take in terms of speech/behavior/choice. Based on the truths of :20-24, Paul deals with something to be laid aside, something to be put on, and the reason why.

:25-32 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity (a place). He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one (lit. the one) who has need. Let no unwholesome (rotten) word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need (of the need) of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by (in) whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness & wrath & anger & clamor & slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

:25 Having once for all discarded THE falsehood (deception, lying, speaking falsely, misrepresenting, exaggerating, misleading, holding back the truth), put on (a command) **speaking truth**, THE truth as it is in Jesus and in line with the righteous and holy people God has made us as Christians. You may have been known as a deceiver, but as a Christian, it's no longer who you are! You're now reliable, truthful, with your words; you're conforming your words to the truth as found in Jesus. He is the truth. His Word is truth. Neighbor = anyone near!

Replace falsehood with speaking truth; why? **Because we're members of one another.** We are Jesus' one Body. Carefully examine the words you use, the tone in which you speak, and your non-verbal communication. What I say affects others. What another Christian says affects me. Laying aside falsehood, speak truth each of you, we're one!

:26-27 Laying aside sinful anger and putting on righteous anger [orgē depends on context, who/what's the source, its intent). This quote from **Ps. 4:4**. There are two kinds of anger: (1) Righteous (just, right) anger which God and Jesus display and is part of the new, righteous, holy creation and walk of God. (2) Sinful, unjust anger which is of the flesh and is destructive, characteristic of the old man and the non-Christian walk.

Be [righteously] **angry**. This is the 1st of 4 commands in :26-7. When the anger is unselfish and based on love for God and concern for others, it's commanded. It's a determined and settled conviction, based on truth in Jesus, a choice, & can only be practiced when strengthened with power by the Spirit. **Rom. 1:18** Be angry at ungodliness (sins against God, suppression of known

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facts about God) & unrighteousness (unjust, when another person is mistreated).

Keep laying aside sinful anger. The 2nd command. This is anger that is out of control, hurts another, consumes one, is selfish and vindictive. This kind of impulsive anger does not achieve the righteousness of God (**James 1:20**).

Don't let the sun go down on your anger [parorgizo, irritation, slowly built up]. A 3rd command: whether the anger is just or unjust, deal with it by sundown. No anger is to outlast the day. Don't make it a practice of harboring anger overnight, even if justified.

Stop giving the devil an opportunity. The 4th command, realize the slanderer wants to deceive and destroy. He'll use the open doors of unjust and prolonged anger as opportunities to cause division and destroy love and truth.

You may have been an angry person as a non-Christian, but it's no longer who you are! All these commands reveal when we're walking by faith and when we aren't. Self-control is something only the Holy Spirit can produce!

:28 Stealing is to be replaced by beneficial, hard work, SO the Christian can be generous with the one who has need.

Abandon the practice of theft, whether it's money, time, ideas. By failing to give an honest day's work, failing to report income to the IRS, shoplifting, not paying back a debt, padding expense account, reporting more hours than were worked, not paying fair wages, when we don't give our best work, waste time, arrive late or leave early at work. Stealing reveals unconcern for someone else; it is a self-centered, old-man practice to satisfy your own needs & wants.

The new man in Christ must **replace stealing with labor**. We are commanded to start working, earning our own living, performing THE useful, beneficial thing in the way we do our work, treat our co-workers, resolve conflict, react to stressful situations. Work provides for one's own material needs and gives something useful to do. Even if you're not paid, work! **Plus, it enables you to materially help others who are in need.** Givers, not takers, we can't meet all the needs in the world, but we can be generous according to what God has entrusted to us (see **Gal. 6:9-10**). Stop stealing! Get working! Start sharing!

:29 Unwholesome, destructive words are to be replaced with edifying words. Words can hurt or heal, lead astray or guide, tear down or build up. Our words we choose to use should reflect renewed thinking in light of our new identity.

A command: **stop speaking rotten**, tearing-down, unfit for use, ungracious words. Rotten used of spoiled fish or rotting grapes. Stop any words that injure others and cause division: slander, malicious gossiping, abusive speech.

Replace with useful, helpful, building-up, appropriate, gracious words. The words used should be chosen based on the specific need, as fits the occasion. When you share with words, make sure they line up with Jesus (THE truth), His written words, and who you are now in Him.

Why? It's so 'grace' is revealed. The person doesn't 'deserve' such words but those are the words we give. As with actions, words are often indicators of whether walking by the Spirit or by the flesh. Would my kids, grandkids, neighbors, fellow workers know I'm a follower of Jesus by the words I use?

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Practical Ways to Apply God's Word:

1. Start with Jesus (**Mt. 11:28-30**) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**).
2. As part of your Immediate Family, you have a responsible role to play. Husband: a loving head. Wife: a supportive companion. Parent: don't provoke your child to anger or exasperate him/her so they lose heart; do bring them up in the discipline & instruction of the Lord. Child: obey and honor your parents.
3. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11**). Also, consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24-25**). Do good to all **Gal. 6:10**.
4. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, and Eph. 4:20-6:18** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
5. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you're continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there's a steady input from God's Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there's a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian. Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).

Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

Each action concerns our relationships. Once made alive, raised up, seated with Christ, His workmanship, saints, fellow-citizens with the saints, of God's household, a holy temple, a dwelling of God, God creating us holy and righteous, our walk should reveal who we now are! These practices to be laid aside may have characterized who you used to be, but are foreign to the new person you've become.

:25 Having laid aside (aorist middle passive) **THE falsehood, put on** (present imperative) **truthful speech**. Falsehood is consistent with the old man and the non-Christian walk. Perhaps thinking a lie will get us out of a difficulty or protect us or make ourselves look good. It includes cheating in school or on income tax returns, misleading someone with words or maybe with a lack of words (not truthing it in love). The manner of life of the old man was falsehood. Decisively cast off deceptive speech and falsehood! (lit. having put off once for all THE lie!)

Speak truth (present active imperative) (**1:13, 4:21,24,25, 5:9, 6:14**) **each one of you with his neighbor**. Quoting **Zech. 8:16**. Both conduct and speech are truthful and expressed in love. Remember, the walk begins in the mind. No personal relationships can be successful unless they are held together by the truth. One must be able to trust the other person's words. Speaking truth demands a continual, deliberate effort. Command: each Christian is responsible to speak the truth, **4:15**, truth it in love! We who have learned Jesus (**4:20**) must be men and women of truth, patterning our walk on the truth as it is in Him.

For we are (present) **members of one another**. Imagine your physical body members lying and deceiving each other. Deception or not speaking truth by one member not only harms that member but the whole Body suffers as well. Because we are members of one another, we need to speak lovingly, freely, and openly with one another. Make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit (**4:2-3**).

:26-27 Be angry (present passive imperative). It's not the outward, boiling-over and soon subsiding rage (**:31 wrath**) or seething resentment or a feeling. It is used of anger against injustice against another or for blaspheming God's name. It's in line with God's truth. It is done to bring glory to God. It can only be practiced when relying on the power of the indwelling Spirit. Only He can produce it. **Ps. 4:4**, the Hebrew verb means to tremble. It could be with fear or anger. The Psalmist acknowledges God's past help and asks to be heard. He then addresses the sons of men. "Tremble (with anger) but don't sin". This kind of anger is free from injured pride, a desire to injure, hatred, selfishness, and the spirit of revenge. Righteous anger is anger towards sins against God and others. Gross injustice, ungodliness, indifference to Him or the needs of mankind make God angry, and should make us angry. Jesus was angry when the Father was maligned or when others were mistreated. (When Jesus Himself was treated unfairly, see **1 Pet. 2:21-25**.) There should be anger in the Christian's life, but it must be God's kind. Practice God's kind of anger. Unrighteousness/injustice is something that is not right in God's sight, often manifested in how one treats others.

Do not sin (present active imperative), commanding a continuous action; keep laying it aside. Become angry, only be sure (a command) you do not miss God's mark. Sinful anger usually includes bitterness, revenge, hatred, unforgiveness, holding a grudge, harsh words, harmful reactions, and is Biblically unjustifiable.

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Do not let the sun go down (present active imperative) **on your anger**. Don't let it continue overnight. The day of the anger should also be the day of dealing with it.

Don't give (present active imperative) **the devil an opportunity**. The commands in :26-27 are: be angry; do not sin; don't let the sun go down; don't give the devil an opportunity. The action is ongoing and must be stopped. The devil/slanderer is a murderer and a liar (**Jn. 8:44**), a destroyer of life & a deceiver. **2 Cor. 2:10-11**. When anger begins to control the believer (even overnight) rather than trusting the Spirit to control the anger, the devil strikes. Yes, practice righteous anger but don't sin; don't let the anger simmer overnight. Your unrighteous anger or prolonged anger give the devil an opportunity to deceive and destroy.

:28 He who is stealing (present active participle) **must steal** (present active imperative) **no longer**. Paul includes thieves among those who will not inherit the kingdom of God (**1 Cor. 6:10**). A command: the one who is stealing, let him no longer be stealing. The 8th commandment (**Ex. 20:15, Dt. 5:19**). Many think stealing is simply a game in which getting caught is the only cause for regret or shame. The old man thinks the world owes him/her. Stealing is a practice of the old man, and it's part of the old walk. Stop it!

Remember who God has created you. **He must labor** (present active imperative), **performing** (present middle or passive participle) **with his own hands what is good**. To stop stealing is only part of the process of walking as a Christian. Remember, we didn't just lay aside the old man; we put on the new man. Another command. It is not enough to cease from stealing. Paul set an example himself of hard work (**Acts 20:34, 1 Cor. 4:12, 1 Th. 4:11**). Jesus worked as a carpenter, Luke practiced medicine, David tended sheep. Start working, earning your own living. **2 Th. 3:10-11, 1 Tim. 5:8**. Kopiaio signifies strenuous work that produces fatigue. Do the good (good in quality, the useful, beneficial thing) according to God's standards, not the world's.

Why? **So that he'll have** (present active) **something to share** (present active) **with the one who has** (present active participle) **need**. Instead of taking from others, as thieves do, the new man must start contributing to those who have need. Sense real need and then share the fruit of your hard labor. **Acts 2:45, 4:35, Rom. 15:26-27, 1 Cor. 16:1-4, 1 Tim. 6:17-19** presents an interesting perspective.

:29 Language is a wonderful gift of God. Our words should reflect renewed thinking and who we are in Christ. **Let no unwholesome word proceed** (present middle or passive imperative) **from your mouth**. Lit. **let no rotten words come out of your mouths!** The Greek is "Every word that is corrupt, out of your mouth let it not proceed." The present imperative has the force of cessation of activity in progress. Stop it! It's used of withered flowers. Words that demean, dishonor, cut down, are abusive (**Col. 3:8**); they hurt or dishearten the hearer. No one can tame the tongue (**Jm. 3:6-8**). Only God can. Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips (**Ps. 141:3**).

Only such a word as is good for edification. Col. 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace. Not only will Christians do 'the good' (:28); they will also speak what is good. Opposite of rotten, injurious. Every word is to be accounted for. When he speaks, he builds up, comforts, or stimulates others to good (**Heb. 10:24-25**).

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According to the need of the moment. The words are chosen that contribute and fill a need.

So that it will give (aorist) **grace to those who hear** (present active participle). The new man asks, “Is my verbal response ministering grace to the hearer?” The Christian is to be strengthened with power through the Spirit, recognize he/she’s a new man, and control his/her speech so it is building, fit for use, gracious. Yes, sometimes they include reproof or correction, but those too are building up when done in the Spirit’s strength, in line with the Word, for God’s glory, and for the person’s good. As a Christian, practice God’s edifying words, words that address the need of the moment, words that comfort, encourage, teach, reprove, correct, train, and extend grace. Because we want to pass on the grace we’ve received from our gracious God, make sure your words are building up and gracious. Unwholesome words are tearing down; they are not fitting; they are ‘ungracious’!

:30 And do not grieve (present active imperative) **the Holy Spirit of God.** Another command! Every Spirit-filled believer desires to bring Him pleasure, not pain. Whether speaking falsehood, practicing unrighteous or prolonged anger, stealing, speaking unwholesome words, practicing bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice, immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk, or coarse jesting: these practices are the walk of the old man, but as Christians we aren’t the old man anymore! The Holy Spirit is a person, not just an influence, for only a person can be grieved. He’s always within our bodies. Any thinking and/or practice that endangers the unity of the Body of Christ grieves Him. In this context, unwholesome words grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Stop speaking them.

By whom you were sealed (aorist passive) **for the day of redemption.** We long for that certain day! “Spirit, we thank You that You are the HOLY one, permanently living within our bodies. We thank You that You are the pledge of our inheritance. We thank You that You have sealed us for that future day of redemption of our bodies (**Rom. 8:23**).”

:31-32 Put off bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice. Put on kindness, tender-heartedness, and forgiveness. :30 fits with these 6 negatives.

:31 Let every kind of, everything belonging to these 6 practices, be put away from you. A command. These practices are part of the old man and walk.

Bitterness: pointed/sharp/bitter. **Wrath:** hotheaded passion. A violent outburst of anger, quickly boiling up and soon subsiding. **Slander:** Trying to destroy a reputation. Abusive speech. **Be put away** (aorist passive imperative) **from you.** **Along with all malice:** Wicked.

:32 Be (present middle or passive imperative) **kind to one another.** A command. As opposed to harsh/bitter/sharp, be kind. **Lk. 6:35** For God Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. **Tender-hearted:** used in **Col. 3:12, 1 Pet. 3:8.** **Forgiving** (present middle or passive participle) **each other.** Forgiving = “Do a favor to”. Giving freely: used of Jesus (**Lk. 7:21,42-43,47**), to grant something undeserved. The concept is broader than forgiveness but includes forgiveness.

Just as God in Christ also has forgiven (aorist middle indicative) **you.** **Read 1:7.** Remember the new covenant (**Heb. 8:10-12; FHIDLS**; He remembers our sins no more!). Once for all, completely; we are to imitate Him! This practice

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rules out such statements as, “Well, I can choose to act in grace toward him, but I can’t forget what he did to me!” God chooses to forget! And we can begin to forget also. Our acting in grace is to be as free and complete as His! Realize God Himself won’t bring up the dealt-with issue again, so if it does come to mind, it’s a fleshly or demonic attack. Making the choice in the Spirit’s strength to be gracious as He is.

These characteristics can only be lived out as we are filled with the Spirit.

“Thank You for Your kindness, tender-heartedness, and acting in grace to us! May we freely and willingly trust You and choose to allow You to pass on Your characteristics through us!”

CONCL TO 4:25-32 Use the commands of Scripture and the fruit of the Spirit as checkpoints to reveal whether we’re walking by faith or not; when we’re strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit; when we’re laying hold of and experiencing the love of Christ; and when we’re filled up to all the fullness of God. We who have learned and heard and been taught in Jesus must be men and women who walk in line with the truth that Jesus is and is in Him.

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