

DIGDEEPER

February 28, 2016

Honesty, Anger, and Generosity by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 4:25-28 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

The book of Ephesians is full of truth about the undeserved and unearned grace of God. This grace that saves is completely unmerited but requires much of those who receive it. In salvation, God sets us free from bondage to sin and enables us to live for his glory in the world. In today's passage, Paul writes about a few ways our new life will display the goodness of God to those around us: the way we speak, the way we react, and the way we give.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

Which is hardest for you: telling the truth, not getting angry, or being generous?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Think of the last time you were dishonest with someone else. What motivated that dishonesty? What would it have cost you to be honest instead?
- Find a place in Scripture where God is angry with his creation. What provoked his anger and how did he respond to it? How is God's anger different than your own?
- How do Paul's words to his readers in Ephesians 4:28 make the Christian approach to work and earning different than the rest of the world? Are these differences a reality in your own life?
- Look again at the three topics Paul addresses in today's passage. Why do you think he brings these each up in light of the bigger discussion about church unity (Eph 4:1-32)?

GO DEEPER

- At this point in the book, we need to be careful. If we forget the order of Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians, we can easily get things messed up and focus too much on changing our behavior by better efforts. Matt Chandler helps us [remember the way we are transformed](#). To put it in Paul's words, it all begins with a renewed mind (Eph 4:23).
- Being dishonest and inauthentic can have a destructive impact on our fellow church members and those who don't know Jesus yet. Ray Cortese recounts some ways that [honesty and authenticity can open the door for the gospel](#).
- Addressing the topic of anger, Jon Bloom helps outline the biblical [difference between righteous and sinful anger](#). It's a helpful distinction that can have many consequences in our lives.
- Take a look at this article from Tabletalk Magazine that encourages us to understand the necessity for [work and generosity in the Christian life](#).

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

As we've looked at honesty, anger, and generosity, you've probably thought of a recent situation where you were dishonest, sinfully angry, or selfish toward someone close to you. Spend time in confession before God, and then apologize to the person hurt by your sin.