

We Are God's Family
A People Informed by "Truth"
Ephesians 4:25-32

Jesus' Prioritization of "Truth" as Our Guide in Life

*"You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, **to bear witness to the truth**. Every one who is of the truth hears My voice." **John 18:37***

*"If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free**." **John 8:32***

BEFORE: Ephesians 4:14-18 *"As a result, we are no longer to be children, ... but **speaking the truth** in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ... no longer walk... in futility of mind... darkened in understanding... excluded from life in God... because of ignorance..."*

AFTER: Ephesians 4:20-24 *"But you did not learn Christ in this way, ... having been taught in Him, just as **truth is in Jesus**... "that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

- The life of a Christian is guided by understanding in which our mind is fully engaged in learning "Spirit-informed truth."
- The life of a Christian, because of God's Spirit living within us, is being transformed into the likeness of God.

The Truth-Informed Life

1. Paul has processed the implications of the Truth and Spirit transformed life. (Ephesians 4:20-24)

Truth, with the help of the Holy Spirit, informs a life of righteousness and holiness.

2. Paul describes the manifestations of righteousness and holiness in the life of a Christian. (Ephesians 4:20-24)

Seven Guidelines to the Christ-like Life

- 4:25 Truth Focused: We prioritize truths about what Jesus would do in life rather than justifying our choices with falsehood.
- 4:26-27 Anger Management: We manage our anger quickly without doing what is hurtful to others.
- 4:28 Work Ethic: We prioritize working for what we need and enjoy without expecting others to provide for us.
- 4:29 Tongue Management: We guard our tongue to make sure we only speak words that are encouraging to others.
- 4:30 Holy Spirit Sensitivity: We do not do anything that would grieve the Holy Spirit who is living and working in us.
- 4:31 Feelings and Tendency Management: We eliminate holding onto hurt and tendencies to hurt back by badmouthing.
- 4:32 Embracing a Christ-like Disposition: Kindness, A Soft-Heart and Forgiveness are what we practice so that they become habits.

Holiness is self-management

Righteousness is how I treat others.

Am I Growing into Adulthood as God's Child?

- Each guideline addresses an area that represents typical human tendencies uninformed by righteous and holiness.
- We can use these seven guidelines to evaluate areas in our life we need to work on in relation to self and others.
- What is one thing I need to focus on during the next week?

Copy these truth informed priorities, place them somewhere for regular review, choose to become more like Jesus.