



CHRIST- SHAPED LIVES AND SPIRIT- INSPIRED SPEECH

“You were taught,
with regard to your
former way of life,
to put off your old
self, which is being
corrupted by its
deceitful desires;
to be made new in
the attitude of
your minds; and to
put on the new
self, created to be
like God in true
righteousness and
holiness”

(Ephesians 4:22-24, NIV)



The Holy Spirit is continuously calling people to abandon a meaningless life dominated by sin.

When a person responds to the call, a transformation begins, a new life in Christ.

How should someone who has been renewed by the Spirit live? Paul explained it to us in Ephesians 4:17-32.



Life without Christ:

➔ From sin to sin. Ephesians 4:17-19



Life in Christ:

➔ A new garment. Ephesians 4:20-24



The transformation:

➔ A new way of living. Ephesians 4:25-29

➔ The work of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30

➔ What to leave behind and what to do. Ephesians 4:31-32

LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST

FROM SIN TO SIN Ephesians 4:17-19

How do pagans live (4:17-19 NIV), and by extension, all those who do not know or accept God?

Futile thinking



Darkened in their understanding



Hardened in heart



Ignorant and separated from the life of God



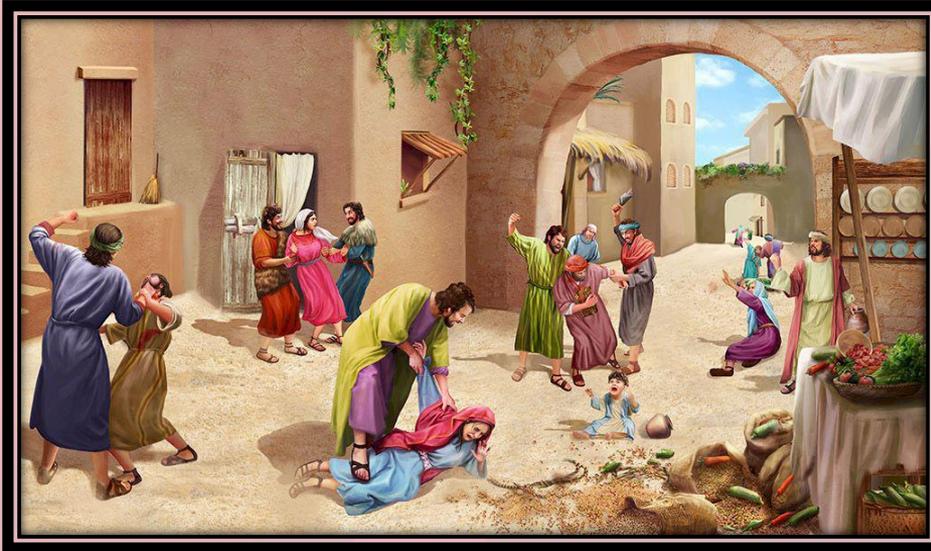
Having lost all sensitivity



Given themselves over to sensuality



Indulging in every kind of impurity



When people do not follow God, they and society fall into a downward spiral of sin. What similarities do you see between Paul's description and the society around you?

LIFE IN CHRIST

A NEW GARMENT

Ephesians 4:20-24



After showing life without Christ, Paul reminded us that we have a different experience. Christ has taught us, we have learned from Him, and His truth has transformed us (4:20-21).

This implies a change of life. It's like a person who takes off their dirty clothes, cleanses themselves, and puts on new clothes (4:22-24):

Put off the old self

We stop living under the dominion of the sinful life we had before accepting Christ

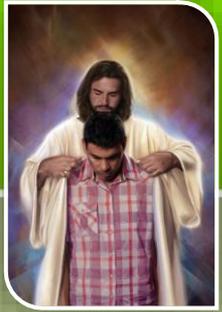
Renew your mind

The teachings of Jesus and His example shape our minds, and we remain loyal to Him as our Lord

Put on the new self

With God's help, we live a life of righteousness and holiness

THE TRANSFORMATION

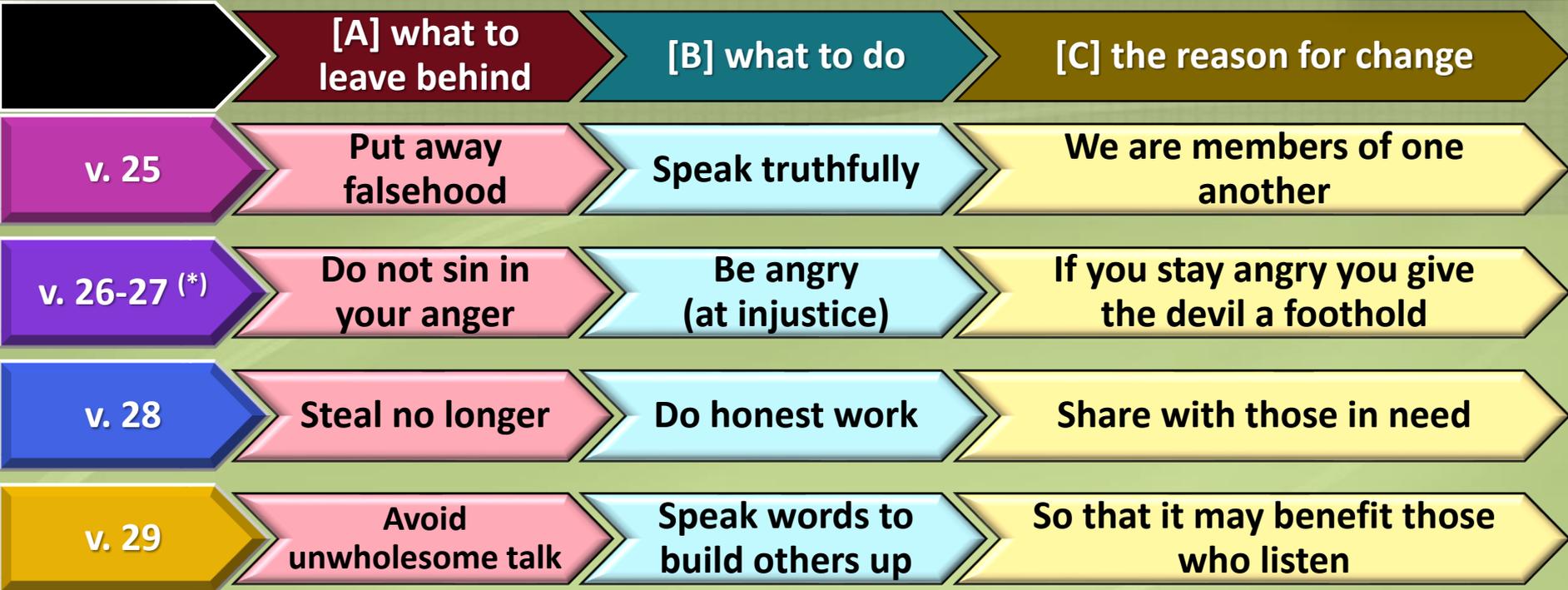


A NEW WAY OF LIVING

Ephesians 4:25-29



Paul provided a series of instructions on how those who have put on Christ should live, using a curious pattern:



(*) In verses 26-27, Paul changes the order of [A] "Be angry" and [B] "but do not sin."

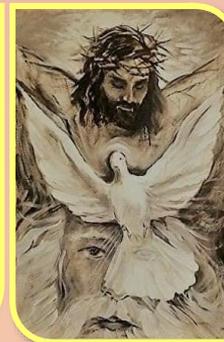
THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30)

Interrupting his exposition on the wrong behaviors of believers, Paul gives a particularly important reason to abandon them: They grieve the Holy Spirit with whom we have been sealed.

We were sealed with the Holy Spirit at our conversion (Ephesians 1:13), and He remains with us until "the day of redemption" (4:30). He does not abandon us when we do wrong things... but He is grieved.

This attitude of the Holy Spirit shows us that He is not merely a force emanating from God, but a Person. A divine Person with feelings, like the Father and the Son, but distinct from them.



WHAT TO LEAVE BEHIND AND WHAT TO DO Ephesians 4:31-32



Using the same previous pattern, we have six attitudes to abandon, three attitudes to replace them, and a reason for making the change (4:31-32 NIV).

What to leave behind?

Bitterness

Rage

Anger

Brawling

Slander

Malice

What to do?

Be kind

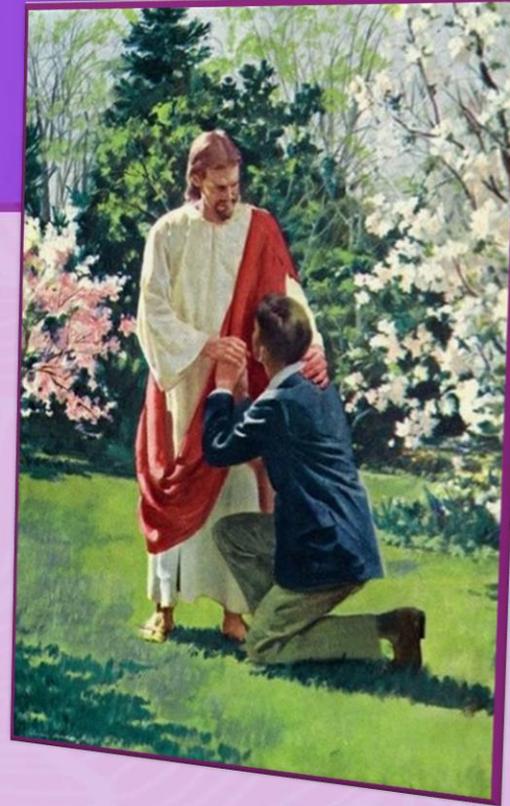
Be
compassionate

Forgive

Why?

Because God
has forgiven us
in Christ

Our conversations and actions among the family of Christ—and beyond it, as well—are to be motivated by kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness based on the highest standard of all, the forgiveness that God has extended to us in Christ.



OUR PLEDGE

- I. I wish for my influence within the Seventh-day Adventist Church family and beyond to be positive, uplifting, faith-building, and morale-boosting.
- II. Recalling Christ's calls for unity and love, I will expend more energy affirming those doing and saying things I believe to be good than in pointing out the failings of those I believe to be wrong.
- III. When I do disagree with someone, I will make my respect for my fellow believer clear. I will assume his or her integrity and commitment to Christ. I will offer my differing opinion gently, not stridently.
- III. I will live joyfully, looking for every opportunity to build up and affirm my fellow church members, as I await the return of Christ.



“Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe.”

E. G. W. (The Acts of the Apostles, Ch. 45, p. 476)