

THE EXCHANGED LIFE Part 2 **Ephesians 4:25-32**

INTRODUCTION :

Note : It's Zak's birthday tomorrow. When I look at him, I remember God's faithfulness in our lives...His very name, Zachary, comes from "Zacharias" which means "God remembers" Let's pray for him.

Last week, we started talking about the exchanged life. It's about ditching the old life with the new life.

**Ephesians 4: ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

***Chuck Swindoll** is saying that sometimes we almost too much emphasize "*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*", as if Christians are expected to sin on a regular basis. He calls it "corrective theology".

But he advises that what we should emphasize when living the Christian life is...

**Romans 6: ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.*

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

In short, we are saying Lord, this body of mine is for you.

***Quote :** Christians are not sinless but they should sin less and less.

We started our study last week about the exchanged already by exchanging lies with the truth.

Story : Those who can tell the biggest lie gets the dough. A group of boys 10-12 were walking and were arguing when they met a pastor along the road. The pastor asked what was the argument all about. The boys said they were give \$20 bucks by an old lady they helped. Thinking that it was too small to be divided, they agreed that the one who can tell the biggest lie gets the whole \$20. Upon learning this, the pastor went out into a sermon about how sinful lying is and the results of lying and ended his lecture with, "When I was your age, I never told a lie." Upon hearing this the boys looked at each other and then youngest gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the \$20"

As emphasized last week, God is serious about His church living and telling the truth that the first discipline He dealt with to the church is to strike dead Ananias and Saphira who lied about their giving.

Why? Because truth is the foundation of the church.

***Quote :** A lie is a stab into the very vitals of the Body of Christ. This is so because a lie is a sable shaft from the kingdom of darkness. Kent Hughes

**Ephesians 4: ²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.*

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ⁹And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Pray

***Review of last week :**

- I. WE EXCHANGE LIES WITH THE TRUTH
- II. WE EXCHANGE UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER WITH RIGHTEOUS ANGER
- III. WE EXCHANGE STEALING WITH SHARING
- IV. WE EXCHANGE CORRUPTIVE WORDS WITH CONSTRUCTIVE WORDS
- V. WE EXCHANGE BITTERNESS WITH KINDNESS

Today, we're going to talk about

WE EXCHANGE UNRIGHTEOUS ANGER WITH RIGHTEOUS ANGER

²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

IMPORTANT : Look at

*²⁶"**In your anger** do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.*

*²⁶ **Be ye angry and sin not...** (King James Version)*

Etymology: "orgizo" (be ye angry) It's a command in the Greek tense "present imperative" it is a command.

IMPORTANT : Because some people believe that all anger is sinful....that's not true. Just like not all sex is sinful in itself just as long as it is between husband and wife only.

²⁶"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

So it means there's an anger that is righteous (since it's being commanded) and there is **an anger that's unrighteous.**

***I. RIGHTEOUS ANGER**

¹To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

²A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

³A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

So there's a time for anger : What is it?

***Quote :** If wrong is going on and that doesn't anger you then there is something wrong with your scale of values – Chuck Swindoll

***Quote :** Anger is a divinely implanted emotion. Closely allied to our instinct for right, it is designed to be used for constructive spiritual purposes. The person who cannot feel anger at evil is a person who lacks enthusiasm for good. If you cannot hate wrong, it's very questionable whether you really love righteousness.

Dr. David Seamands.

Note : The best example we can get is from our Lord Himself. We think of Him as these always soft-spoken person but there are times that He showed His anger. There are times that He got angry but yet did not sin and remained sinless.

***1. When man dishonours God's holiness**

¹³When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

Note : Remember that the temple is a place of worship, a place where you can give glory to God but the people turned it into a place where they can earn money.

Illustration : In the Philippines, there was a trend for multi-level marketing (there's nothing wrong with it per se) and the pastor made his whole congregation his "down-line". In short, in the pretense that his motive is to help the church members with their financial situation, the problem is it takes away the focus on what the church is all about.

A gathering where people can worship God and have fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ and reach out to a lost world.

Another : I know of one pastor who quipped, "Oh I love this church, it's so business-minded." But isn't the church supposed to be "Christ-minded"

In short, when people attend church for their own selfish reasons and uses the church for their own selfish motives, then it dishonours God and we should be angry about it

***2. When man deceives God's people**

Matthew 23:

13"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

15"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

16"Woe to you, blind guides!

23"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

25"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

27"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. 28In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

29"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

33"You snakes! You brood of vipers!

Note : I don't think Jesus was saying this gently.

Etymology : hypocrites "hupokritos" - meaning an actor

In short, you look so good on the outside but you have different motives on the inside.

Very important : Some people might feel guilty that they are hypocrites because they have a wrong notion of what a hypocrite is. They think being a hypocrite in the Christian life is that their actions aren't in line with what they teach or have learned. If that is what happens, they are not being hypocrites, they are being disobedient.

Then what is a hypocrite? If we're going to look at how the Pharisees and teachers of the law act during Jesus' day and the etymology of the word "hypocrite" This is the description :

***Hypocrite :** One whose actions hide their real motives.

**Matthew 6 : 2" So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men.*

5" And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men.

¹⁶"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting."

*(Show masks)

In short, the Greek "hypokritos" actors during that time wears a mask that portrays their emotion but really doesn't show their true selves or motives.

Important : They act accordingly to get the response they are looking for.

Example : Just like the mask, they will act pitiful to get sympathy or act funny to win people's hearts. But they do that because of an underlying motive..

**Galatians 2: ¹¹When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.¹²Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.*

¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

In short, Paul is saying, "Hey Peter, why are you acting like that when that's not the real you?"

Real Peter : Knows already that there's no more clean (Jews) and unclean (Gentiles). Everyone has been washed by the blood of Christ.

**Acts 10: ¹¹He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹²It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."*

¹⁴"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

¹⁵The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

Acting Peter : (When the Jews arrived) Acting as if to be clean is to separate from the unclean.

The Reaction Peter Wanted from the Jews : Acceptance

In short, again, Peter **was acting** in order to **get the response he was looking for**.

Important Question : How would you know if an actor is good or not? If you don't feel they are acting at all...parang totoo...

Again : That's why Jesus said to be *"cunning as serpents but meek as doves"*

Illustration : By God's grace I am proud of Zak and Bexy in their school, not just because of their grades but because they are standing to what they know is the truth and sometimes they suffer for it.

Example : They will be in the Mass because it is required but they don't take communion because they know the truth about the true communion. Zak even at a young age in Ateneo (a Catholic school in the Philippines) is gently refusing to participate in the communion and the rosary and the religion teacher told him something like "Why are you studying here? You should go to another school." The purpose he was in that school is because we wanted the best education for him and not because of the religion.

3. When man disrespects God's will

Matthew 16 : ²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Note : Look at Peter, it seems his motive is correct but clearly he is not doing it according to God's will.

Important : Our motive might be correct but if we are opposing God's will then we might be unwittingly used by the enemy to block His purpose.

Heard this on the radio again in the Philippines :

Sometimes when a person is suffering because of his/her own sin, don't come to the rescue immediately simply because you might be interfering with God's discipline in his/her life.

CONCLUSION :

Illustration : Yesterday, I was cleaning the house and I had to take out the rugs because it was full of dust and dirt. In order for the rug to look beautiful again and useful in the house, I have to take out the dust and dirt. How do I do that?

1. I have to take it out of the house
2. Then I have to make pagpag by hitting it with a stick

Why? So it can be useful again in the house of God.

We always hear the words, God hates the sin but loves the sinner.

But in order for the sin to be taken out of the sinner, He has to take it out of the house and make pagpag. Does he do it because He hates the rug? Of course not, He does it because He loves the rug and He hates the sin that is in that rug. So if He pagpags the rug, He can make it useful again.

That is righteous anger.

S.G.D.

PRAY for Chicay's healing

Unrighteous

1. When we are angry because of our rights or reputation

2. When our anger has no restraint

a.) We lose hold of our mind.

b.) We plant hatred in our heart

Quote : Somebody said, "When I get into an argument with my wife she doesn't get hysterical, she gets historical."

3. When our anger seeks revenge

Husband to wife: When I get mad at you, you never fight back. How do you control your anger?

Wife: I clean the toilet bowl.

Husband: How does that help?

Wife: I use your toothbrush.