

“What Behavior Within the Ekklesia Looks Like” pt. 1

Series: Learning to Live “in Christ” - Ephesians

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Behavior is the result of our hearts and what we feed those hearts through the thoughts of our minds. Christ-followers, now equipped with a New Heart, are capable of Behaving Righteously!

Paul shares a similar message to the Church in Corinth:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

We have what is needed to live as Light within a Dark World.

“His divine power has **given us everything we need for a godly life** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” 2 Peter 1:3

Paul identifies specific areas where Correction/Clarification is needed. He also reveals a Key Strategy/Insight that has to do with keeping our new Heart Healthy.

Behaving in Ways that Reflect _____

“Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood** and **speak truthfully** to your neighbor, for we are **all members of one body**.²⁶ “In your **anger do not sin**”¹: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must **steal no longer**, but **must work**, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have **something to share** with those in need.

²⁹ **Do 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.” Ephesians 4:25-29

4 specific examples of how we live “connected” as Community/Ekklesia:

1. Truthful Speech instead of lies. vs. 25
2. Passion/Anger must be correctly managed! vs. 26-27
3. Working instead of Stealing vs. 28
4. Speech that builds up, not that tears down vs. 29

My New Heart will Flourish as I _____ and not _____ the Holy Spirit.

“And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5 ¹ **Follow God’s example**, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and **walk in the way of love**, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Conclusion:

Do you value the Ekklesia?

Is your life spent following the Spirit or Ignoring His Way?

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

All Scriptures are from the New International Version unless noted.

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