

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Before starting on the practical instructions, read 4:32-5:2 together. How do these verses protect us from becoming new Pharisees? Make sure to remind each other of these verses as you work through the questions.

LYING/TRUTH (READ v25):

1. Verse 25 addresses lying. What kind of lying do you think could occur within a Christian community? Have you ever been guilty of it? How is the end of verse 25 supposed to help us avoid this?

ANGER (READ vs26-27, and 31):

2. Verse 26 speaks about an anger that is ok to feel. Can you think of examples of this in the Bible? Can you think about examples of this in life?
3. How can righteous anger become sinful? How does the second half of verse 26 protect against this?
4. In verse 27, how do you think the devil could use righteous-anger-gone-too-long? If the anger is my problem, what has the devil got to do with it anyway?
5. How are the anger words in verse 31 different? How is verse 32 an antidote to these problems?

STEALING/WORKING/SHARING (READ v28):

6. Besides the obvious, what other kinds of stealing could we as Christians be guilty of? (eg, timesheets, tax, paying wages)
7. The protestant work ethic is about how it is good to work hard. That fits into western consumerism happily. How does this instruction go much further for us as Christians? Complete this phrase: we work in order to ? If I work hard to share with others, how could this change my attitude when work is boring, unsatisfying or "unfulfilling"?
8. Who are you sharing your material resources with? Do you find this easy or hard?
9. Why is it important that the work is "honest/useful/good"? Does how you spend your weekdays fit into this category? Do you need to change/resign in order to fulfil this command?

BAD WORDS/GOOD WORDS (READ v29):

10. What kind of speaking do we need to stop? What are some examples of this in our own Christian community? How is this instruction more than just "don't speak rudely"? What does Paul add to it?
11. Why do we find it so hard to say only what is helpful for building others up?

SPIRITUAL WORK (READ 4:30, 4:32-5:2)

12. Why is the Holy Spirit grieved in verse 30? What work is he involved in according to 1:3, 13; 2:22; 3:16; 4:3, 30? How does it make you feel to think that you might be making God's Holy Spirit really sad by your behaviour? What does it tell us about God that he allows himself to feel this way
13. 4:30, 32, 5:1 and 5:2 all speak about God's work towards us. How can this motivate us to walk in love?

Pray through your behaviour: your speech, emotional reactions, attitude to possessions and personal relationships. Where do you need to repent? What areas do you need to ask God to renew? What actions do you need his power to take, so that you move from the truth you know to the life you lead?