

Speak The Truth in Love
Ephesians 4

Example: What would you think had taken place if someone came up to you and asked if it was true that you were moving away, when you had no plans to do so?

“Rumor travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as truth.” Will Rogers

- Prov. 26:20** Without wood a fire goes out;
without a ~~gossip~~ a quarrel dies down.
21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire,
so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.
22 The words of a ~~gossip~~ are like choice morsels;
they go down to the inmost parts.

“The only time people dislike gossip is when you gossip about them.” Will Rogers

2Cor. 12:20 For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

The impact of Gossip: It Grows, It Changes, It Cannot Be Taken Back
The Solution to Gossip: Stop It!

What is Paul's method for Describing the problem? Ephesians 4

- 4:1 – Walk in a manner worthy of your calling: HOW?
- 4:2 Show tolerance to others in love
- 4:3 Be Diligent to preserve the Spirit's Unity
- 4:4-13: Describing Unity of Spirit
- 4:14 – Stop Acting like children
- 4:15 – Grow Up in every dimension to be like Christ
- 4:16 – Christ brings about the growth

What Does that Look Like?

- 4:17 – Stop living like non-believers
- 4:17b – Purposeless in their thinking
- 4:18 – Darkened in their thinking through things
Ignorant

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Hard of Heart, i.e. won't recognize God

4:19 – Callous so that they live for the sensory pleasures of life

4:20 – Live like you learned

4:22 – Put away the old, corrupt, decaying way of living (Lay it
aside, avoid)

4:23 – Be renewed in your thinking

4:24 – Put on the new self

4:25 – Lay aside falsehood (Same word as 4:22)

4:26 – Speak truth because we are connected to each other

4:29 – Use only Good Words that build up (i.e. Grow, Mature,
etc.)

4:31 – Put away the old (Suspend them)

4:32 – Be kind, tender of heart and forgiving

Zech. 8:14 “For thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and I have not relented, **15** so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear! **16** ‘These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. **17** ‘Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,’ declares the Lord.”

Stage One: Come to Christ (Birth)

Stage Two: Be Changed by Christ (Childhood)

Stage Three: Mature in Christ (Adulthood)