

Ephesians Series

Lesson #200

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Spiritual Skills:
Grace Orientation in Relation to the Things We Say
Ephesians 4:28



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Our Worthy Walk, Eph. 4:1ff

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,”

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Eph. 4:2, “with all humility and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in [by means of] love,

Eph. 4:3, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Speaking THE Truth in Love

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph. 4:16, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Controlling What We Say

James 3:1, “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

James 3:2, “For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:3, “Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.”

Controlling What We Say

James 3:6, “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

James 3:7, “For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

James 3:8, “But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

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James 3:9, “With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.”

Our Walk Should Be Different

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you **to walk** worthy of the calling with which you were called,”

Eph. 4:17, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should **no longer walk** as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,”

Old vs. New Man

Eph. 4:22, “that you have put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Eph. 4:23, “and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

Eph. 4:24, “and that you have put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

Old vs. New Man

Rom. 6:6, “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Rom. 6:7, “For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Rom. 6:8, “Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,”

Old vs. New Man

Rom. 6:11, “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 6:12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Rom. 6:13, “ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

Speaking the Truth

This is the topical sentence for the rest of the chapter.

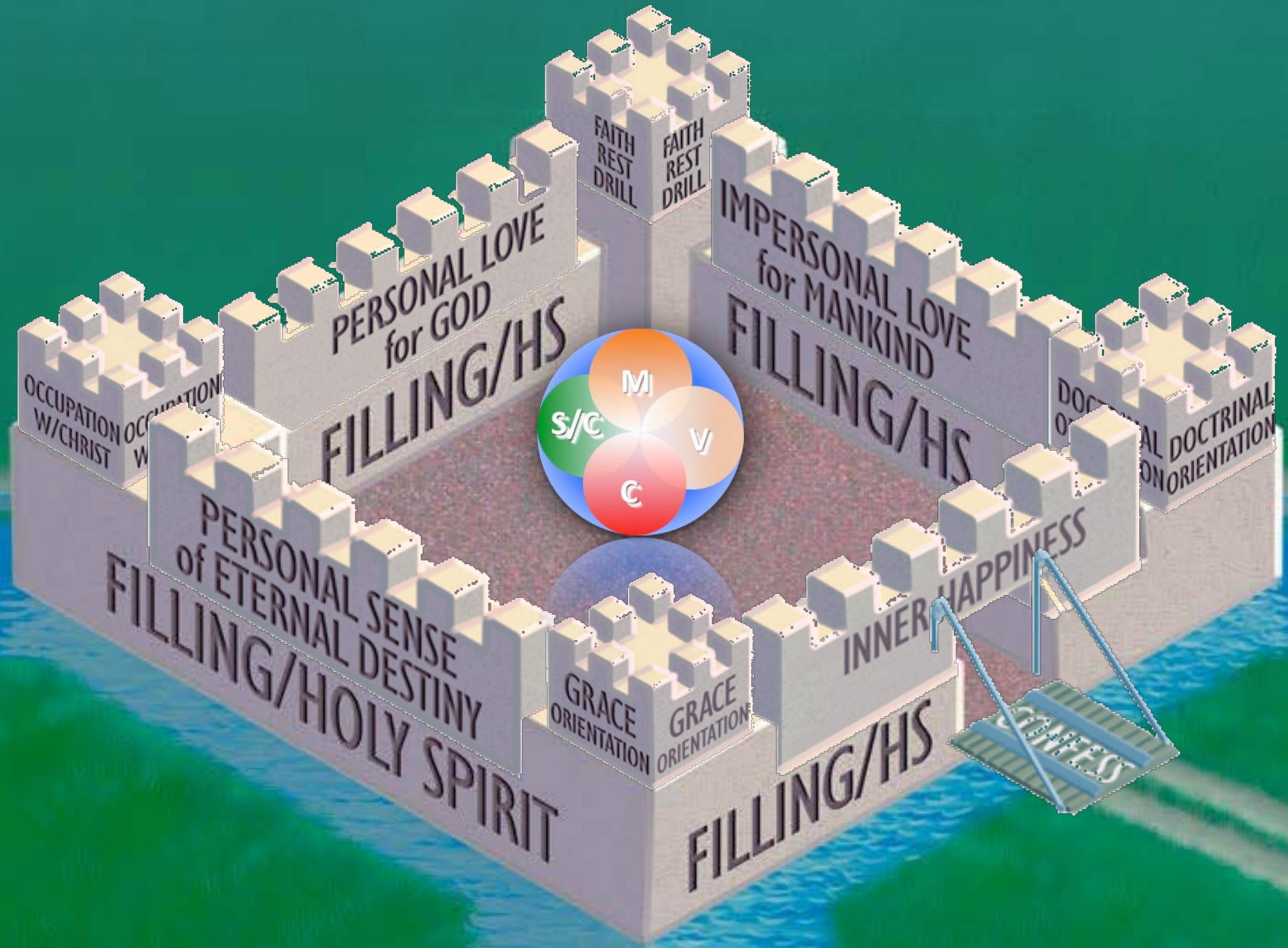
Eph. 4:25, “Therefore having already put off the lie, let each of you speak THE TRUTH with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

**ἀληθεύω *alētheuō* pres act
part masc plur nom
to tell the truth, speak in line
with Scripture, the standard
of what is true.**

Observations on the Passage

The section from Eph. 4:25–5:21 has 27 imperatives (plus several imperatival participles).

8 more from Eph. 5:22–6:9



OCCUPATION OCCUPATION
W/CHRIST W/CHRIST

PERSONAL LOVE
for GOD
FILLING/HS

FAITH
REST
DRILL

IMPERSONAL LOVE
for MANKIND
FILLING/HS

DOCTRINAL DOCTRINAL
ORIENTATION ORIENTATION

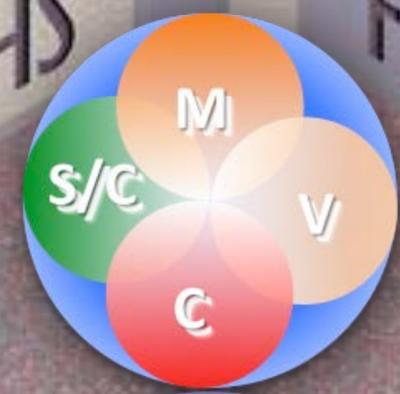
PERSONAL SENSE
of ETERNAL DESTINY
FILLING/HOLY SPIRIT

GRACE
ORIENTATION

GRACE
ORIENTATION
FILLING/HS

INNER HAPPINESS

GAINES



Joy/Inner Happiness/Tranquility of Soul
James 1:3; John 15:11; 17:13

**Personal Love
for God**
Deut. 6:5

**Biblical Love for All;
Christian Love for
Other Believers**
Lev. 19:18; Jn. 13:34, 35

**Occupation with
Christ**
Heb. 12:2; Php. 3:20

Personal Sense of our Eternal Destiny
Col. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:4

Faith-Rest Drill
Prov. 3:5, 6

Grace Orientation
Eph. 2:8, 9
2 Pet. 3:18

**Doctrinal
Orientation**
2 Pet. 3:18

Walking by the Spirit/Filled by the Spirit
Gal. 5:16

Confession of Sin, 1 John 1:9

Eph. 4:25, “For this reason, because you have already put off the lie, *let each one of you speak [the] truth with his neighbor*, because we are members of one another.” [RD]

Context

1. Eph. 4:15 gives us a command to speak the truth “in love;” this should be defined by those characteristics in this passage and in 1 Cor. 13:4–7.

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—” [NKJV]

ἀληθεύω *alētheuō* pres act part
masc plur nom
to tell the truth, speak in line
with Scripture, the standard
of what is true.

Context

2. Eph. 4:17 expands this, commanding us to speak the truth with our neighbor, who is part of the “one another,” i.e., not just anyone, but here neighbor is clarified to be part of the body of Christ, “one another.”

Eph. 4:25, “Therefore, having put off the lie, ‘Let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.” [RD]

Context

3. The command of Eph. 4:28 is to be able to give help to those in need, an expression of grace, undeserved merit.

Eph. 4:28, “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

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ὁ κλέπτων *ho klepton*

pres act participle with the article

masc sing nom

Used as a noun: “the thief”

κλέπτω *kleptō*

3 sing pres act imperative

to steal; “steal no more”

Eph. 4:28, “Let the thief, steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

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What the Bible Teaches About

Control of our Mouths



Eph. 4:29, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

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something unwholesome, evil,
destructive.**

**The contrast earlier is with the
TRUTH and the lie. cf. Matt. 12:33–
37**

Matt. 12:33, “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

Matt. 12:34, “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matt. 12:35, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

Eph. 4:29, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

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**οἰκοδομή *oikodomē*
fem sing acc
building, building up.
The question: is
what I am saying and
talking about for the
ultimate good of my
and my hearers’
spiritual life?**

Psa. 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

Prov. 6:16, “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

Prov. 6:17, “A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,

Prov. 6:18, “A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil,

Prov. 6:19, “A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

**Prov. 10:11, “The mouth of the righteous is a well of life,
But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.”**

**Prov. 10:19, “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,
But he who restrains his lips is wise.”**

**Prov. 10:31, “The mouth of the righteous brings forth
wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out.”**

Prov. 4:24, “Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you.”

עֲקָשׁוּת (*iqq^eshût*) *crookedness* (Prov. 4:24; 6:12).

Prov. 8:13, “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;

Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”

Prov. 11:9, “The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.”

Prov. 11:11, “By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.”

**Prov. 13:3, “He who guards his mouth preserves his life,
But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.”**

**Prov. 14:25, “A true witness delivers souls, **But a deceitful
witness speaks lies.”****

Prov. 15:1, “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Prov. 15:4, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

Prov. 17:4, “An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.”

Prov. 17:9, “He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends.”

Eph. 4:29, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

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Eph. 4:29, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Eph. 4:30, “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Eph. 4:31, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” [NKJV]

Isa. 63:7, “I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.

Isa. 63:8, “For He said, ‘Surely they are My people, children who will not lie.’ So He became their Savior.”

Isa. 63:9, “In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them all the days of old.

Isa. 63:10, “But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them.”

Ex. 17:7, “So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’ ”

Num. 20:12, “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.’

Num. 20:13, “This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them.”