

8 L's Ephesians 4:22-32

1. Limit – This text is “in the middle” between two sections that speak of sexual immorality. The premise for this section is established in 4:20, “You, however did not come to know Christ that way”, as this section speaks to how the believer (church, should function) References are made to both the previous and following section of this letter in the teaching that is found here. The importance of this segment of Ephesians was a determining factor in the selection of this passage of study. The parenthetical utilization of the phrases “(v. 22) “you were taught”. (v. 31) “forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.” create a full and complete argument that can be examined. **[Reader drawn to conclusion in verse 31.]
2. Literature – Exhortations or Parenesis to the early (gentile) Christian. This sermonic letter has been noted by many to be a ‘prison’ epistle. It is not a personal, but general letter that was most likely routed to many churches.
3. Location – City: Ephesus- Pre AD 61-61 (during Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome). Ephesus was the queen city of Asia Minor and had a population of 340,000. It was one of the most prominent cities visited by Paul and was known for having The Great Temple of Diana. Ephesus was famous for its rich culture, oriental religion, Greek philosophy, roman government and worldwide commerce.
4. Language – “put off falsehood” – pseudos - means lying or deceitfulness. “doing something beneficial” – agathon - good or beneficial. “Grieve the Holy Spirit” – lupe – meaning to be sad or sorrowful. “get rid of” – apotithemi – cast off. “anger”- orge – settled anger with a view towards revenge. “Malice” – kakia – meaning vicious character.
5. Links – Matt. 21:12-15 Jesus deals with anger. Mark 3:1-6. James 1:19-20 on anger. Prov. 29:11 on anger.
6. Leads – From: Teacher/Pastor (Paul), To: Believers\Parishoners –who are without a Pastor. More than wisdom is being shared, what to do with wisdom is being shared. How to live in community (as God’s family) amid a society with people from diverse backgrounds and beliefs is being explored. How was Paul utilizing Christ as an example in his teaching? How should we view his words today? How should we regard his instructions? How did the early church regard his instructions?
7. Lessons – Paul exhorts his reader to guard against having an anger that manifest itself into sinful practices. It is important to deal with anger swiftly and decisively. The importance of dealing with anger properly is to prevent the devil from gaining a foothold in any relationship and within the church.
8. Life Application – See Sermon (attached)