

Sermon Series: *Identity*

7/19/26, “What the New Looks Like,” Eph. 4:25-5:5

INTRODUCTION ever ignore a warning alarm & sorry you did?

why does God keep warning us, letter after letter, verse after verse?
to make us unhappy? Dad’s pain in his back in the 90s

MAIN IDEA: Protect your relationship with God. How? Here are 3 things to do to prevent a downward slide toward spiritual death.

I. First, give rather than take (25-28)... *principle John 13:34*

A. we take from others in many ways

1. lying hinders freedom... *devil’s language (John 8:44), opens door for him to harm body* **(distrust)**
2. in anger sinning & holding onto it... *poisons us, robs others of respect, feelings of safety & security*
3. stealing harms others... *wounds them, makes them feel violated* **(seats stolen out of car)**

B. giving to others builds them up

1. truth gives freedom **(from suspicion, self-doubt)**
2. anger *can* move us to deal with issues in a Christlike way **(treated unfairly)**
3. working to share changes us (behaving like Jesus) & helps others **(COH)**

C. giving rather than taking protects us from the devil

1. footholds permit devil to work in & through us... *harming us & others* **(worsening anger)**
2. salvation does not remove or prevent footholds

ILLUSTRATION:

Transition: A foothold grieves the Holy Spirit in us.

II. Second, help rather than harm (29-5:2)

Unwholesome: rotten, bad, corrupt **Word (*logos*):** word, message

A. what we say can defile & harm us & others **(“Loser”)**

1. foul words strengthen our old nature

2. we become bad company corrupting others

B. ungodly things within us exude from us... *bitterness, wrath, anger, outbursts* [ongoing animosity, resentment, fault-finding—*Amplified Bible*], malice [wickedness as an evil habit of the mind—*Word Study Dictionary*, NT]

C. imitating Jesus safeguards our relationship with the Spirit

1. walking in love: builds, helps others heal with our words, kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness
2. keeps us from grieving the Holy Spirit
3. grieving the Spirit can harden our hearts

ILLUSTRATION:

Transition: Grieving the Spirit, endangers our salvation.

III. Finally, live rather than die (5:3-5)

A. continued sin keeps us out of heaven... *shows we have not changed from our old nature*

EX: 1. sexual immorality (fornication)... *any sexual contact or act or mental imagery outside God-ordained marriage between 1 man & 1 woman*

2. indecent (*ungodly*) speech

Eph. 5:4, Living Bible: Dirty stories, foul talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, remind each other of God’s goodness, and be thankful

3. greed (*covetousness*)... *results in idolatry*

B. giving God thanks keeps our eyes on Jesus

1. keeping us mindful of all He has given us
2. leading us to want to please Him
3. enabling us to imitate Him

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: