

"Learning to Communicate"

Ephesians 4:25-32

[New Small Group Leader interest form](#)

LEARN

[Tracing God's Story: God's Eternity Pt. 1](#) (25:58) We are now ready to explore the final scene of our study of the Bible as one grand story of God's saving work in the world—a work that culminated in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His Son. We can call this scene "God's Eternity." As we dig into this part of the story, we will take some time to remember that we are to see ourselves as a significant part of this story. This is the key to applying all that you are learning about God to your life. Supplemental books/workbooks can be purchased [here](#).

1. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. What stood out to you from the passage and the sermon?
2. Read Matthew 12:34 and Ephesians 4:20-24. Pastor Scott noted that "communication problems aren't speech problems—they're heart problems." Why is it impossible to fix communication through behavior modification alone?
3. In Ephesians 4, Paul moves from orthodoxy (right belief) to orthopraxy (right practice). How should "learning Christ" specifically reach our speech?

PRACTICE

1. Discuss the metaphor of "rotten fruit" (*sapros*) in verse 29. How have you seen sinful speech "infect" the atmosphere of a home?
2. Paul pictures every conversation as part of a great "construction project." What are practical ways to ensure our words function as a "construction worker" rather than a "demolition crew"?
3. What does it look like to choose words that fit the occasion and "learn to discern" the needs of the moment?
4. Rules of Engagement: When you "lock horns" in a disagreement, which of these Gospel-centered rules do you need to apply most this week?

CHANGE

1. Husbands:

- a. Am I using my words as "weapons" (swords/arrows) or as "means of grace"?
- b. Do I lead by repentance and confession when "rot" spills out of my mouth?
- c. Does my wife regularly experience God's kindness through my words and prayers?

2. Wives:

- a. Have disappointments or unmet expectations turned into "rotten" bitterness, rash words, or passive-aggressive silence?
- b. Am I functioning as a "construction worker" or a "demolition crew" in my home right now?
- c. How can I practice gracious, loving correction this week rather than stewing on the inside?