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**SERMON NOTES June 12, 2022**

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

**Ephesians 4:20-25  
Putting on Truthfulness  
Pastor Mike**

1. Properly \_\_\_\_\_ Biblical morality

a. The core problem is our \_\_\_\_\_

What \_\_\_\_\_ is a natural expression of \_\_\_\_\_

b. The supremacy of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ sin and \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness

2. Confusion regarding issue of \_\_\_\_\_

3. Taking off the sin of \_\_\_\_\_

a. The problem of \_\_\_\_\_

b. The problem of \_\_\_\_\_

4. Putting on the character of \_\_\_\_\_

a. Truthfulness in \_\_\_\_\_

b. The character of \_\_\_\_\_

We are called to speak \_\_\_\_\_

c. The Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_ truth defined by \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Numerous surveys that have been taken on the issue reveal that almost all Americans admit to lying regularly, yet few see this as a problem. One author commented that “Lying has become a cultural trait in America; it is embedded into our national character.”
  - a. Why don't most people see this as a serious problem? Do you think it is, and if so, why?
  - b. Why have we grown to accept this level of dishonesty as being normal?
  - c. What are some specific ways where this has resulted a harmful decay in aspects of our culture and the way we relate to each other?
  - d. If you were to honestly assess your own life, to what degree is this true of you?
  
2. Most agree that a commitment to truth and truth-telling are essential for any society to exist, but at the same time, they argue that some lying is also necessary. For example, T. S. Eliot wrote, “*Humanity cannot bear very much reality. Truth-telling makes it possible for people to coexist; a little lying makes such society tolerable.*”
  - a. To what degree do you agree that a commitment to truth and truth-telling is essential and foundational to any healthy society? Explain your answer.
  - b. To what degree do you agree that some dishonesty is essential for a healthy culture? Explain your answer.
  - c. What is behind the obvious contradiction in these ideas?
  
3. Ephesians 4:25 calls us to “*put away falsehood*” and to “*speak the truth with his neighbor.*” What is the difference between taking off lying and putting on truthfulness?
  
4. How has our culture redefined the concept of lying and honesty? What forms of lying and/or deception are commonly accepted in our culture, and why?
  - a. To what degree do you think our culture's view on lying and telling the truth has influenced you? What forms of dishonesty are easiest to justify, and why?
  - b. What forms of dishonesty do you struggle with the most?
  - c. What is one way you personally take care to be truthful, especially when others seem unconcerned with integrity?
  
5. Should we always tell the whole truth? Can you think of an example when a person told the truth in a harmful and destructive way? Read and respond to Proverbs 10:10-21 and Proverbs 12:13-23.
  
6. Have you ever listened to or participated in a discussion of the question, “is it ever OK to lie,” and is it ever right to withhold part of the truth? If you have, to what degree were the answers based in scripture and to what degree were they based only in personal opinion?
  
7. What does it mean to have the character of gracious truth where we “speak the truth in love?” Does this ever justify lying?