

Practical Christianity

Eph.4:25-32 - 12/11/16

Definitions of Christianity have been various & somewhat ethereal at times, but it is also to be understood in practical terms as well.

***Ephesians 4:25**

There may be times where we need to sit down & have a heart-to-heart conversation rather than be deceptive, or perpetuate falsehoods - or tell people what they want to hear rather than the truth about a situation (in love, gentleness & respect - with much prayer & reliance upon the Spirit)... We're members of one another.

***Ephesians 4:26+27**

"Anger is possibly the most fun sin; to lick your wounds, to meditate on grievances long past, to practice the anticipated prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor to the last flavorful morsel - both the pain you're given and the pain you're giving back, in many ways... Is a feast fit for a king! The chief drawback is, that what you are wolfin down is - yourself."

***Ephesians 4:28**

You and I have been 'introduced' to a world that is suffering and in need - through the internet, TV, radio, printed media... And on our streets! We can't deny any knowledge of their need - nor can we refuse to help. *Look for gospel/Christ-centered organizations.

***Ephesians 4:29**

"In a year's time, the average person's words would fill 132 books - with 200 pages each... Imagine a lifetime! Among all those words

there are bound to be many spoken in anger, carelessness or haste."

God help us to hide His word in our hearts.

***Ephesians 4:30**

Once we've come to saving faith in Christ then the Holy Spirit comes to inhabit God's people... And so He loves us! And just as someone who's in love - thinks about, dreams of and cherishes the one he loves - the Holy Spirit (Who is a Person/Being) - longs for us, thinks about us, desires to be close to us and wants to reveal Himself to us.

But when we act like the world, talk like the world, behave like the world and respond the same way the world does... Then we cause the Spirit of God to feel shock, hurt and grief.

***Ephesians 4:31**

Believers are being told to put these things away from us, as all of us can be tempted by such thoughts and reactions but here's the thing... We can't play with any kind of sin!

"That is what the devil does with men - he makes them forge their own chain - then binds them hand and foot with it... As he watches them cast into outer darkness for eternity"

"Sin comes when we take a perfectly natural desire, longing or ambition - and try desperately to fulfill it without God"

***Ephesians 4:32**

I've probably caused God some heartache & I've given Him many good reasons not to trust me again, yet He does. So let's forgive, "just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" - & let's show kindness.