

# Transformed Relationships

Truthful Speech

# Ephesians 4:25 - 6:9

- the life of the new humanity - a picture of maturity
- relationships consistent with salvation
- outworking of a fundamental change in attitude

Goal: functioning,  
witnessing body

Mark of maturity =  
speaking truth in love

# Speech

- can promote or destroy unity
- can build up or destroy our brothers or sisters
- words we speak have much more power than we realise - they can bless or curse
- speech is therefore important

# Ephesians 4:25-30

Reorientation of the  
whole of life from self-  
centred to others-centred

# Ephesians 4:25-30

- Put away falsehood - v25
- Speak truthfully to neighbours - v25
  - as members of one another
  - “Masks off” relationships

- The problem and danger of anger - v26
  - see lecture tomorrow on forgiveness
- Links with hard work and generosity - v28
  - orientation of the life towards the needs of others - in word and in deed

- No corrupting talk - v29
- Only upbuilding talk - v29
- Danger of grieving the Holy Spirit with misuse of our speech

# Summary

- Reorientation of the direction of our lives
- Practical concern in words and in actions for the needs of others
- Speaking and doing the truth to others

# Application

- Fundamental recognition that I am not my own - all I am and have is for the sake of others.
  - therefore no fear
  - no competition
  - promoting the welfare of others

- Reputation
  - not living to gain a reputation
  - renouncing my attempts to “make a name for myself”
- bondage of “keeping up appearances”
- freedom of truth

# Truth and Love

- Encouragement and freedom of reality
- Inappropriate honesty
- Affirmation
- Loving rebuke

# Discussion Questions

- how do you want people to see you?
  - what aspects of your character do you therefore hide so that people will think better of you?
- can you make a commitment to entrust your reputation to God and then be free to bless others with what you've received?
- think of one other person here today and ask God to show you one thing you can say to encourage or bless them today.