

A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE - 3

10/28/07

Intro – This past week in S. California the nation faced another catastrophe in the form of a raging wild fire that burned over 450,000 acres (700+ sq miles), force the evacuation of over 350,000 homes, burned more than 1,600 homes, with over \$1 billion in damage. At least 3 people had died. All, it now appears, because of some arsonist!

The Bible speaks of another “wild fire” caused by the “garment” the Lord wishes to remove from our closet. It is found in the following scripture...

James 3:5-6 – “Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell... No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**”

1. PREREQUISITE UNDERSTANDING: POSITION, then PRACTICE (WALK)

A. POSITION – “What we are, and receive the moment we believe”

- “Sealed” (Eph 1:13)
- “Seated” (Eph. 2:6)
- “Saved” (Eph. 2:8)

B. PRACTICE – “The practical, every day walking out of our faith where we continually become more like Jesus in what we say and do.” (Eph 4:1)

Eph 4:22,24 – “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ... And to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

2. WARDROBE: OLD > NEW

EPHESIANS 4 & 5

A. LIES > TRUTH 4:25

4:25 – “Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood and speak truthfully** to his neighbor...”

B. CONTROLLING ANGER > CONTROLLED ANGER 4:26-27

4:26-27(N.L.T.) – “And don’t sin by letting **anger gain control over you**. Don’t let the **sun go down while you are still angry**, for anger gives a **mighty foothold to the devil**.”

C. BITTERNESS & ANGER > KINDNESS & FORGIVENESS 4:31-32

4:31-32 – “**Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander**, along with every form of **malice**. **Be kind and compassionate** to one another, **forgiving** each other as Christ forgave you.”

D. STEALING > WORK

4:28 – “He who has been **stealing** must steal no longer, but must **work**, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to **share** with those in need..”

E. GREED > GIVING

5:3 – “But among you there must not be even a hint ... of **greed**, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”

***TODAY'S OUTFIT: UNWHOLESOME TALK > WHOLESOME, GODLY TALK**

*Eph 4:29, 5:3 – “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is **helpful for building others up** according to their needs, that it may **benefit those who listen.**” / “Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather **thanksgiving.**”*

1. _____ > _____

***Discussion:**

1. Why is cursing so hard to get a grip on as far as what is really cursing?
2. What is one type of cursing we should all agree upon as being wrong?
3. What was another “rule of thumb” Pastor Rich shared that we should go by?

2. _____ > _____

*Proverbs 17:9 – “He who covers an offense promotes love, but whoever **repeats the matter** separates close friends”*

***Discussion:**

1. What exactly constitutes gossip? How does it differ from slander?
2. How does it often quickly become a “raging fire out of control”, causing great damage?
3. What was the “rule of thumb” Pastor Rich share that we should go by?

3. _____ > _____

*Proverbs 10:11a – “The mouth of the righteous is a **fountain of life**”*
*Heb 10:25b – “...let us **encourage** one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

***Discussion:**

1. Why should Christians be the most positive of all people?
2. Negativity can also cause great damage. How was this illustrated in a very powerful manner by the children of Israel as they approached the promise land the first time?

4. _____ > _____

*Proverbs 10:32a – “The lips of the righteous bring forth **what is acceptable**”*

***Discussion:**

1. Why is this NOT referring to a general sense of humor?
2. What was another “rule of thumb” Pastor Rich shared that we should go by?

