

## **Study Guide: "Members One of Another"**

*Carter Sanger, Aug-09*

### **Introduction**

How many paths are there to happiness? Why do you think this way? Where is happiness ultimately found? What does the Bible say about the way to get there (read John 14:6)?

The Christian in our culture usually think about this verse in an individualized sense. He says "Yes, there is only one path to God, but it is a narrow path, only wide enough for one individual to travel at a time." Would you agree with his sentiments? Why or why not?

Read Ephesians 4:25-32.

### **I. Speak the Truth**

Looking at verse 25,

- To whom is truth to be spoken? What impact might it make in our society of Christians were known for speaking truth?
- What reason does Paul give for speaking the truth? How does this impact your view of the church? How does this impact your view of your own Christian walk? Can you see this changing the way you are involved in the church?

### **II. Be Angry and do not sin**

Looking at verses 26 and 27,

- If there is such a thing as good anger, what do you think the purpose of anger is?
- Why does Paul say, "do not let the sun go down on your anger?" What does it mean to let the sun go down on your anger? What happens when you do nothing about your anger?
- Can you think of ways in which you let anger turn into sin?
- Can you think of ways in which your anger has led to actions that have benefited the body of Christ?
- Can you think of ways in which doing nothing about your anger has allowed the devil an opportunity to work destruction or corruption with the body of Christ?

### **III. Don't steal but do honest work**

Looking at verse 28,

- Discuss culturally acceptable ways of stealing. Do you see the Christian community living by a different standard?
- Why do people steal? What is the affect of stealing upon the community?
- What is the affect of doing honest work with your own hands?
- What kind of change in thinking is required to move someone to work in order to have something to give to the needy instead of working to build their own bank account?
- From whom are we ultimately stealing when we fail to do honest work?
- What are we ultimately trusting when we limit ourselves to honest work and willingly give to others?

### **IV. Don't trash talk but build each other up**

Looking at verse 29,

- Can you think of ways in which you tear others down without building them up? What are they?

### **V. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit**

Reread verses 30-32 and verse 25.

- Why is this verse included with the commands above?
- What work is the Holy Spirit doing? What is the Holy Spirit building and sealing?
- In verse 25, the word translated “falsehood” is more literally, “the lie.” To what lie might Paul be referring (read Romans 1 for ideas).
- If we have exchanged God for idols, does this explain why we might lie, seek revenge, steal, and tear down? How so?

**Wrap-up**

- What has changed in your thinking with regard to the church and your attitude towards it?