

The Mental Calculus of Truth

4/252022 • Ephesians 4:25 • Journey EC



Context

Chapters 1–3: *The glorious truths of the Gospel*

We are saved by grace through faith, reconciled to God, united with His Body

Chapters 4–6: *The Gospel truth gloriously lived out*

4:22 Put off **old self** Renew **mind** Put on **new self**

4:25 Put off **lies** Change **calculus** Put on **truth**

Transformation of our nature and how we relate

Lying comes from our _____

Nothing intrinsically wrong with desires

Determination of good vs. bad desires: _____ desire

Understanding the fleshly mental calculus for lying vs. eternal reasons for truth

The underlying reason why we lie: our old nature

More immediate reasons:

We try to get, keep, or avoid something

We try to hurt or protect someone

The overarching reasons why we are truthful:

It evidences our new nature, our new Father, our eternal destination

Paul's reason: we are _____

Lying, misleading, not speaking the truth:

injures the entire body, causes body parts to fall off

reveals pride and ignorance of Christ's body and headship

evidences the person might not be part of the body

The exception that gets too much attention (*or don't let the tail wag the dog*)

Hebrew midwives, Rahab, Michal protecting David, Corrie Ten Boom, etc.

For reflection and discussion

- What lie(s) do you struggle **putting off** (gossip, people pleasing, unverified stories, broken promises, saying different things to different people)?
- What's the fleshly **mental calculus** that tempts you to be untruthful?
- I will **ask for forgiveness** from someone I've wronged.
- I will **memorize** Ephesians 4:25, and recite it when tempted.