

Honesty is the Best Policy Eph. 4:25

4:25-32 offers five sets of commands for our “new self” in Christ.
Pattern = 1) negative, 2) positive, 3) the rationale for obeying.

Dishonesty should be a thing of the past. 25a (negative)

- ◆ *Therefore* (based on 22-24) in view of the *laying aside of the old self*, this means the old practice of dishonesty is to be *laid aside*.
- ◆ This does not negate rare possible exceptions because of ethical conflict with evil men, as with the Hebrew Midwives or Rahab. Recall Samuel in I Sam. 16:1-3 and David in 21:1,2 / Mk. 2:25,26.
- ◆ Dishonesty condemned elsewhere: Col. 3:9, Prov. 6:16-19,12:19, 26:28, Isa. 59:3, Jer. 14:14, Micah 6:12, I Tim. 4:2, Acts 5:3

Honesty should be our new policy. 25b (positive)

- ◆ *Truth* (genuine / real / honest) earlier in 1:13, 4:15, 21,24.
- ◆ The importance of truth / honesty: Prov. 12:19, Ps. 15:1-3 51:6, I Cor. 13:6, Js. 3:14.
- ◆ Zech. 8:16 shows how we, like blessed Israel, should respond.

Honesty is what best benefits the body. 25c (rationale)

- ◆ The reason for truthfulness here could be . . . but instead it is because we are *members of one another* (cf. 1:22,23, 5:30, I Cor. 12:12-27). Why is this motivation not at all surprising?
- ◆ Consider the impact of dishonesty: Jer. 9:3-5, Prov. 6:16-19, 14:25, 26:28, Zech. 10:2. How about in our nation?
Truth is needed: 4:15, 24, 6:14, 6:14, Jn. 17:17, III Jn. 3.

