

“Don’t Take The Bait”

Satan is ever-present to bring situations into our lives where we can:

1. Become bitter – often involves the use of our tongues with insulting speech, belittling another, make light of them either to their face or behind their back.
2. Have wrath – exhibited by an outburst of anger, loss of temper, quick flare-up, retaliation
3. Are angry – often exhibited by giving the silent treatment, a “slow burn” ... contemplative revenge
4. Clamor – arguing, never letting the issue go, wanting to have the last word,, always bringing it up to the person
5. Slander – degrading the character of someone, literally means “blasphemy”, in Hebrew, “*lashon hara*”
6. Or have malice – the intention or desire to do evil or to have ill will, every kind of selfish or bad relational behavior,

Eph 4:25-32:

²⁵ “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

²⁶ **Be angry and do not sin;** do not let the sun go down on your anger,

²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil.

²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

²⁹ **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths,** but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ Let all **bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.**

³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

“The heart is deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” Jer 17:9, NKJV

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” Pro 4:23, NIV