

Going Deeper Questions  
**Protecting What's Precious**  
Ephesians 4:25-32  
April 25, 2010

1. Have you ever lost something that is precious to you? Or, has something of value to you ever been damaged or hurt in some way? What kind of emotions did you feel?
  
2. Read Ephesians 4:25-27.
  - a. Ephesians 4:25 – Jeremy shared a story about how he confronted a neighbor of his. Have you ever had to confront someone? How did it go? Were you nervous? Why is Ephesians 4:25 pretty difficult for us? How can we do it with hearts that care (cf. Ephesians 4:15-16)?
  - b. Ephesians 4:26 – Have you ever witnessed (or been on the receiving end of) someone using emotions to manipulate? Do you think that is wrong? Why or why not? How can we have the God-given gift of emotions and yet not sin (whether that is anger, sadness, happiness, etc.)?
  - c. Ephesians 4:27 – in what ways can the devil have his influence in the church? Based on the discussion so far, how can we not give him any place in the church? Do you think this is a serious problem in the church today? How about in our church?
  
3. Ephesians 4:30 is often quoted when people talk about sin and want to influence others not to do it. In the verses around it we find the kinds of behavior that cause sorrow to our Lord. Read Ephesians 4:28-29, and 31-32 and see if you can remember what was said in the sermon regarding how we can protect the family of God from causing Him sorrow.
  - a. Ephesians 4:28 – this verse boils down to an attitude of generosity rather than greediness, right? How are you doing on this? When we have so many expenses and demands on our resources, how can we be generous?
  - b. Ephesians 4:29 had a major impact on Jeremy when he was about 20 years old. Have you ever thought about the words that you say and their impact on the heart of God? What kind of impact does this verse have on you?
  - c. Ephesians 4:31 – have you seen in your lifetime Christians who are living like this verse describes? What does it take to continue to grow in what Ephesians 4:32 describes? How are you doing on this?
  
4. God has entrusted us with His precious possession – the church, His family. What role do you think He wants you to play in taking care of what is of top value to Him?