

A Resolution for 2017

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

'Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen'.

At St. Mark's, we believe we are a church that works to "Build you up, and not tear you down". In order to live into that expression, our Administrative Council is asking you to join us in a resolution to focus on this scripture from Ephesians in 2017.

At our recent council retreat, we discussed the scriptural basis for this motto, and identified ways churches can be intentional about building up one another, and how they can, unintentionally, tear people down. One of our action items was to address how churches sometimes unintentionally tear people down through idle, unwholesome talk, and gossip.

Let me be clear, I don't think this is a St. Mark's problem, but a human problem we want to avoid.

That is why we voted to focus on living into this scripture from Ephesians. We have had plenty of time to break our other New Year's resolutions, so please consider joining the council and the staff in this one. We will be talking about ways we can live out this scripture, such as the Rotary Club's 4-point test, but my favorite expression was stolen from the Marlatt family's new year's resolution, "Don't be mean in '17!"

I encourage you to read the Ephesians scripture at home, and take the words to heart. Perhaps your Sunday school or small group might choose to take this scripture for a focused discussion at some point. The things we say matter, so let's be sure to build each other up, and not tear anyone down.

Sean Gilliland
Chair, Administrative Council

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