

Truth in Love

[Eph 4:15-16 ESV] 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

I. Intro

- A. Do you ever get so upset at the way of the world that you want to yell, argue, or say things in a way that is dunking on another?
- B. Do you ever want to get louder than the noise of this world?
- C. Remember this: yelling true statements does not convey the message of truth.
- D. Yelling true statements to correct illogical and unreasonable thinking, or false doctrine doesn't work. It doesn't accomplish the goal of conveying truth.
- E. It's like trying to steer your car with the horn, it only causes a wreck.
- F. The expectation is MATURITY into God's plan for us
 1. We are not to act like babies: demanding things and having no regard to others
 2. We are to become mature followers of Christ.
 3. Start where you are and grow to maturity from there
 4. A baby does not have the tools to be different from what he is.
 5. But, a maturing adult should be different from this.
- G. I've met many adult believers that act like spiritual babies in the church.

II. Text

- A. Recap verse 14: Don't be tossed around by every new concept and strategy:
 1. The teaching point is the word
 2. We consume the word
 3. We pray, we practice, we participate
 4. But the word is enough
- B. Verse 15
 1. When we speak the truth, we do so by the power of Christ for building up the body
 2. We are to grow up in Christ
 3. Maturity is an expectation from scripture.
 4. The word for love here is "agape" does that change your view of this text?
- C. Verse 16
 1. We have one source: of truth, growth, grace, correction
 2. We are joined together, and should work together properly.
 3. The body builds itself up in Love! This is the truth!
 4. What a beautiful picture of ministry!

III. Point

- A. Truth
 1. What is truth?
 - a) that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality.
 - b) Facts and statements of reality, true statements.
 2. Absolute Truth vs relative truth.
 - a) Truth is not relative, by definition or practice.
 - b) That which is true is true because it is.
 - c) Truth is not relative to perspective
 - (1) Sometimes it looks like I have more fish in my aquarium due to the shape of the aquarium, but there is a finite number of fish, no matter the skewed perspective, there are only 6 fish in the aquarium.
 - (2) The skewed perspective of the world does not make the truth change
 - d) To say there is no such thing as absolute truth, is a statement of absolute truth.

- e) Relative truth is a self defeating argument.
- 3. Relative Truth:
 - a) Is based upon perspective and opinion, and those opinions are stated as fact.
 - b) Relative truth in our world today comes from a post modern philosophy that compromised the integrity of our society.
- 4. Absolute statements of truth are statements of things that are true because God declared them to be true.
- 5. Sometimes our opinions or compulsions get confused as truth.

B. Love

- 1. God is Love, therefore He is our standard for defining Love.
- 2. God can be described by Love, but understand this concept: God defines Love, He defines what Love is, how it influences our world, and the feelings generated by it.
- 3. Love is: 1 corinthians 13
- 4. Our responsibility: to speak the truth in Love
 - a) If spiritual discipline needs to take place, it should be done in love and for the purpose of restoration:
 - (1) Correction:

[2Co 2:5-8 ESV] 5 Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure--not to put it too severely--to all of you. 6 For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

[Mat 18:15-17 ESV] 15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

(2) Restoration:

[Gal 6:1-2 ESV] 1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

C. A Beautiful Collision

- 1. What is a beautiful collision?
 - a) Peanut butter and chocolate
 - b) Oreo's and ice cold milk
 - c) Any flavor of blue bell ad a spoon!
 - d) Things that are different, but work together for the betterment of the cause.
- 2. The response from the church in regards to the truth we live by will mark us.
- 3. We will be known by what we stand for and what we stand against.
- 4. We stand equally regarding Truth an Love, for a purpose:
 - a) The scripture declares this purpose
 - b) So the body of Christ functions properly. Everyone serving and using their gifts.
- 5. We cannot expect everyone to on the same growth trajectory, but we can expect truth in Love
- 6. The beautiful collision:
 - a) We love because He first loved us
 - b) We do not compromise the truth, because it is not ours to compromise
 - c) We stand on the truth of love for a purpose, the building up of the body of Christ
 - d) We do not back down from conviction, but hold on to the only thing that can stand the test, the truth.

IV. Close