

Standing Firm in the Truth

Anchored in Truth, Abounding in Love

Truth _____ us. Love _____ us. Christ _____ us.

Introduction: Storms Reveal What We Are Anchored To

- Love is not built in the sunshine. It is built in the _____.”
- A marriage, a family, a Christian and a church discover what they are built upon when _____ come
- Ephesians 4:14 pictures immature believers as “tossed here and there by _____” and carried by “every wind of _____”
- The question is not whether storms will come, but whether we are _____ when they do.

I. God Desires a Mature Church (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. (Ephesians 4:11)
- Those gifts were given for the _____ of the saints, for the work of _____, and for building up the body. (Ephesians 4:12)
- Scripture equips the man of God for every _____ work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Ezra set his heart to _____ the law, _____ it, and _____ it. (Ezra 7:10)
- Christ’s goal is the unity of the faith, the knowledge of the _____ of God, to the _____ man (Ephesians 4:13)
- God does not want spiritual _____. He wants mature disciples. (Hebrews 5:12-14, Colossians 1:28)

II. Truth Protects Us from Spiritual Drift (Ephesians 4:14)

Immaturity creates	_____
False teaching creates	_____
Error is constantly	_____
God's truth is	_____

- Jesus prayed “Your _____ is truth.” (John 17:17)

III. Truth Must Be Spoken in Love (Ephesians 4:15)

- Paul does not merely say to know the truth. He says, “_____ the truth in love.”
- Jesus came into the world to testify to the _____. (John 18:37)
- Truth without love becomes _____.
- Love without truth becomes _____.
- Jesus was full of grace and _____. (John 1:14)
- Jesus showed mercy and still said, “Go. From now on _____ no more.” (John 8:11)

- Truth determines what we _____. Love Determines how we _____ it.

IV. *The Goal Is Growing into Christ (Ephesians 4:15)*

We Are to Grow Up	We Are Being Transformed	We Are to Grow into Christ
“grow up in _____ aspects” Our speech, attitudes, relationships, service, conviction, and compassion must grow.	God’s purpose is conformity to the image of His _____. Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18	“into Him who is the _____, even Christ.” The goal is not merely being right; the goal is _____.

- Paul pressed on to know _____ and become like Him. (Philippians 3:10-14)
- The goal is not simply being _____. The goal is becoming like Christ.

V. *Truth and Love Build a Health Body (Ephesians 4:16)*

Christ Holds	Members Serve	Love Builds
<i>“the whole body, being fitted and held _____”</i> <i>Ephesians 4:16; Colossians 2:19</i>	<i>“by what every _____ supplies”</i> <i>Ephesians 4:16; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27</i>	<i>“for the building up of itself in _____”</i> <i>Ephesians 4:16; Colossians 3:14</i>

- Truth anchors us to _____. Love connects us to one another.

Conclusion: Standing Firm in the Storm

- Storms reveal foundations. Storms reveal anchors. Storms reveal _____.
- Am I Anchored in _____?
- Am I speaking the truth in _____?
- Am I growing into _____?
- Am I helping the body grow in _____?

“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, Even Christ.” – Ephesians 4:15