

Speaking the Truth in Love

Bulletin

Christian maturity includes not being easily fooled, manipulated, or drifting away from Christ. (*Ephesians 4:14, Hebrews 13:9*)

Growing into Christ is the goal. "Speaking the truth in love" is the method.

Why We Need the Truth Spoken in Love

1) We need truth because sin always seeks to rationalize itself. (*Jude 1:4, Romans 1:29-32, Eph. 4:1-2, Eph. 5:6-10, Gal. 6:4-5*)

2) We need truth because sin always seeks to blind us to its existence. (*Eph. 4:1-2*)

- Pride usually breaks in 1 of 2 ways: Speaking the truth in love or abject failure and prolonged suffering.

3) We need truth because sin always seeks to condemn us. (*Eph. 2:1-9*)

Spoken in Love - A) Love is deeper than sentimentality or action. B) Love is sacrificial. C) Love means your heart breaks when someone walks away. (*Eph. 4:15, John 3:16, Phil. 3:17-18, Luke 15:11-32, Luke 19:41, 2 Cor. 5:14, Titus 3:3-5*)

Love increases the probability of being heard as well as the probability of speaking up.

Practical Tips: 1) Be curious. 2) Compare what they say with Scripture. 3) Use wisdom. 4) Bring the heat up slowly. (*Matthew 18:15-20*)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. When you were a kid, what's something you believed that you only realized wasn't true until you got older?
2. Read Ephesians 4:14-16. Paul describes spiritual immaturity as being like children who are easily fooled or a boat tossed around by waves. What are some things that can cause Christians to be deceived or drift away from Christ today?
3. Read Ephesians 4:15-16. Paul describes speaking the truth in love as one of the ways we grow into maturity in Christ. Why do you think God designed us to need that in order to help us grow?
4. One of the points from the sermon was, "We need truth because sin always seeks to rationalize itself." What are some common ways people justify attitudes or behaviors that they know aren't right?
5. Read Ephesians 4:1-2. One of the points from the sermon was, "We need truth because sin always seeks to blind us to its existence." Why do you think pride can be so difficult to recognize in ourselves? How does humility help us receive correction?
6. Read Ephesians 2:1-9. One of the points from the sermon was "we need truth because sin always seeks to condemn us." How does the truth of God's grace help us respond differently to our sins and failures?
7. Pastor Josh explained that love is deeper than sentimentality or simply doing loving things. Read John 3:16 and Philippians 3:17-18. What do these passages teach us about the kind of love we should have for one another?
8. We heard on Sunday that love increases both the likelihood that someone will hear the truth and the likelihood that we'll speak up in the first place. Why do you think love makes such a difference on both sides of a difficult conversation?

9. Read Ephesians 4:29. Pastor Josh gave four practical suggestions for speaking the truth in love: Be curious, compare what someone says with Scripture, use wisdom, and bring the heat up slowly. What have you found most helpful in conversations that help us grow in Christ?

10. As you think about your own relationships, what's one practical way you could grow in speaking the truth in love, or in being more willing to receive it from others?