

The, in your face,  
honesty of Jesus  
Part 3

Speaking the Truth in love

2/5/2012

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”  
Ephesians 4:15

Looking back on this past week, if we could look at every word you spoke, would it be obvious that you are a committed Christian?

Or would be become obvious that I am a:  
Whinner, complainer, a poser, a liar, or might it be by our own words, it would be shown that I have no relationship with Jesus?

I. My speech tells a lot about me.

1. What's in my heart

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

Luke 6:45

2. Who I belong to

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

John 8:44

3. Where my home is

“After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

Matthew 26:73

II. What is required to “Speak the truth in love?”

1. It requires speaking

- I need to open my mouth and speak the words.

A. I must be willing to speak when it would be easier to remain silent

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Col 4:6

- Silence is easier, but when sin is involved...deadly

B. My speech must be brought & kept under control

“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell...but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”  
Jas. 3:2-5, 8.

Watch what you say

Be careful how you say it

Let your speech be an example

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech.” 1 Timothy 4:12

## 2. Speaking the truth

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.” Eph. 4:25.

A. In order to speak truth, I have to know what the truth is

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me. “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. John 18:37-38

Truth is this:

Jesus is the Truth

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth

The Word of God is the Word of Truth

And if the idea, philosophy, statement, position, or ideology doesn't line up with these, it is a lie and absolutely must be rejected.

B. Speaking Truth is a Trademark of the Christian

“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” Col. 3:9-10

C. Speaking Truth is anchored in “the Truth” of the Gospel

## 3. Speaking the truth in love

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”  
1 Cor. 13:6

LOVE: To do what is good and right for the one loved

When the topic of that which is needed is spoken / preached, love is doing its work.

“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” Acts 20:20

To the unbeliever: Speak to him about Jesus (Acts 17:16-17).  
To the Christian who is sinning: Bring truth to the problem (Jas. 5:19-20).

- Use your opportunity to help the spiritual condition of hearer.

A. Requires Speaking for the Right Reason

1 Cor. 16:14; Eph. 4:14-16 (Gal. 2:14; 4:16).

And what is the right reason?

Our motives (why) & procedure (how) must be pure:

We speak the truth not to “get even”; to “inflict pain”; or elevate ourselves but to benefit the other person.

HOW we speak the truth is as important, as is the truth we speak!

B. Requires that I seek to speak in the most effective way possible

To sum it all up:

1. Speaking truth in love is expected of God's people.
2. I need to be ready to *speak* (when needed), to speak *truth* (without deception), & to do so in *love* (for the lasting good of those who hear us).