

Speaking The Truth In Love

What exactly is involved in speaking the truth in love?

Speaking The Truth In Love

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

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Introduction

- Heard complaint you are not “speaking the truth in love”
- Say I sounded angry, looked angry or in some other subjective way, portrayed a lack of love
- My conclusion - they truly did not care for the content of the lesson

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Introduction

- Caution – Don’t judge motives of speakers
- Impossible to read another’s thoughts
- Truth is objective, can be determined, but motives for speaking it are subjective, not apparent

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Caution Against Judging Motives

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

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Speaking The Truth In Love

Context of Eph. 4:15

What speaking the truth in love is not

What speaking the truth in love is

Responses to speaking the truth in love

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Context of Eph. 4:15

- In Eph. 4:7-16, Paul reveals the means of spiritual growth for the church
- Word of God revealed by the Holy Spirit
- Confirmed by miraculous gifts to men and women
- Word designed to save lost and edify Christians to maturity
- The Word would also stabilize Christians to stand against all error

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Context of Eph. 4:15

Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

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Context of Eph. 4:15

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

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Context of Eph. 4:15

- Within this context, they were to speak the truth in love so that each member might grow by learning and applying the Word to their lives so there might be a unity in faith among them
- As each member grows in faith, they are able to contribute to the spiritual growth of other members

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Context of Eph. 4:15

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is Not

Having a particular style of preaching

Luk 7:33 "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!'

Luk 7:34 "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is Not

Having a particular style of preaching

2Co 10:10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

2Co 10:11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons *we are* also in deed when present.

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is Not

Holding back part of the truth

Act 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.
Gal 4:16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?"

Pro 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is Not

Watering down the truth

1Pe 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

1Pe 2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is Not

Being ambiguous or confusing about truth

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is

Spoken with boldness

Act 4:13 Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Act 4:29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is

Spoken with boldness

Act 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

Eph 6:19 and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is

Both positive and negative truth

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Tit 2:12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is

Both positive and negative truth

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

Tit 2:14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

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What Speaking The Truth In Love Is

Speaking all the truth

Act 20:20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

Act 20:26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

Act 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God."²¹

Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Spiritual growth

Act 17:11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

1Th 5:21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Spiritual growth

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Spiritual growth

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Rejection of truth and persecution of preacher

Joh 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

Act 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Rejection of truth and persecution of preacher

Act 7:52 "Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Rejection of truth and persecution of preacher

Act 7:53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it."

Act 7:54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him.

Act 7:57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

Rejection of truth and persecution of preacher

Act 7:58 When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

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Responses To Speaking The Truth In Love

- Before we charge someone with not speaking the truth in love, let us be sure we are not simply seeking to avoid responsibility for obeying the truth that is spoken
- Let us speak the truth, all of it, out of love for God above all and then love for one another that we may be saved by hearing and applying the truth

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Context of Eph. 4:15

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Responses to speaking the truth in love

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