

## **TRUSTING IN ONE ANOTHER: SPEAKING THE TRUTH – EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Trust is important in every aspect of our lives – home, work, and in our local church.
2. One of the ways we can build and maintain a culture of trust in the church is by speaking truth to one another.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. THE TRUTH & TRUST**

- A. Truth is “what is real, trustworthy, dependable, genuine, or valid. It carries the sense of real-world dependability and genuine disclosure—showing things as they really are.”<sup>1</sup>
- B. Truth is an important part of why we trust God.
  - i. God’s character and nature are such that He cannot lie (**Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18**).
  - ii. When God speaks, we know He speaks the truth (**Isa. 45:19**).
  - iii. Because of that we know we can trust Him (**Deut. 32:4; 2 Tim 2:13**).
- C. Truth is also why we shouldn’t trust Satan.
  - i. Jesus said he is the father of lies (**John 8:44**).
  - ii. The first time we see him he deceives Eve (**Gen. 3:4-6**).
- D. When we think about what the concept of truth means, we should easily be able to understand the importance of truth and trust.
- E. Remember, trust is reliance or confidence in a person.
- F. What happens to trust when you know you can believe what someone tells you?
- G. What happens to trust when you can’t believe someone?
- H. When trust is violated because we aren’t being honest with one another, there is a lot at stake.
  - i. When we don’t tell the truth, people can be led astray (**Jer. 23:32**).
  - ii. When we aren’t truthful, not only can it result in hurt feelings, but it can also destroy lives and reputations (**Prov. 14:25**).
  - iii. It cannot only damage our personal relationships but also undermine our relationship with God (**Rom. 1:24-25**).
- I. Whether we are talking about our homes, school or jobs, we desire honesty and integrity in those we interact with.
- J. This should be true when we think about the church since it is a relationship where we are supposed to defend and protect one another from temptation, Satan, and sin.

#### **II. THE TRUTH & NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH**

- A. Now the opposite of the truth is not what is real, but what is unreal, untrustworthy, unreliable, counterfeit, and invalid.
- B. The opposite of telling the truth is to tell a lie or to deceive.

---

<sup>1</sup> Mangum, D. (2014). [Truth](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

## **TRUSTING IN ONE ANOTHER: SPEAKING THE TRUTH – EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

- C. While it is unfortunate, some people aren't above just making up something or telling a flat-out lie (**2 Kings 5:20-27**).
- D. But that is not the only way we fail to speak the truth with one another.
- E. Sometimes, we may choose to withhold important details that leave the wrong impression (**Gen. 12:10-13**).
- F. Sometimes, we may twist someone's words to try and convey something they didn't intend (**Mark 14:56-58**).
- G. Sometimes we deceive not only with our words, but also with our actions which are designed to convey something that isn't true (**Matt. 26:47-50**).
- H. Even joking around is used by some as a cloak to cover the truth (**Prov. 26:18-19**).
- I. Flattery, positioning, and the ever popular "spin" that goes on are all ways that we can fail to speak the truth.
- J. What happens in the church when you can't trust the words of your elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, or the brother or sister sitting next to you in the pew?
- K. No matter how we might choose to distort or spin the truth with one another, the result will always be the same – trust will be undermined or destroyed.

### **III. BUILDING TRUST BY SPEAKING TRUTH**

- A. Distorting the truth is not the way of the child of God.
- B. God calls us to cultivate an atmosphere of trust by speaking the truth with one another (**Eph. 4:25**).
- C. This will require courage to speak the truth even when it is hard (**Jas. 5:16; Gal. 6:1-2**).
- D. Our words to one another should come from a place of selfless love, coupled with grace and tact, and good judgment (**Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:29**).
- E. What are some things we can do to help us build trust by speaking truth?<sup>2</sup>
  - i. Always pray to God for wisdom on how to speak to one another (**Jas. 1:5**).
  - ii. If you find yourself struggling to be honest, ask yourself why? Is it fear, pride, or something else that is challenging you (**2 Cor. 13:5**)?
  - iii. Try to be aware of your interactions and see if you are being honest or are beating around the bush or spinning.
  - iv. Involve a brother or sister you can trust to give you feedback and hold you accountable if you are struggling to speak truthfully with others (**Prov. 11:14; Jas. 5:16**).
- F. As Christians, we should strive to be like the Lord and always speak the truth.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Truth is a powerful part of building and maintaining trust.
2. May God help us to always speak truth to each other.

---

<sup>2</sup> Some of these are adapted from Stephen Covey's book (The SPEED of Trust [New York: Free Press, 2018], 145-7).  
ROBISON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST- EDNACHURCHOFCHRIST.ORG  
1/26/20 – 10:30 A.M.