

SPEAKING THE TRUTH TO ONE ANOTHER

Context: Transformation process (Rom 12:2; 2Cor 3:18) described in detail. As sin patterns are manifested & identified, we are to look for the thinking behind sin patterns. All behavior is based on some type of logic: ideas → sin; ideas → spiritual; **ex:** indulge in pleasure = belief that sustained pleasure will bring +H. Wrong thinking identified, then we are to reject it & remove it from our heart.

Erase – Replace - Embrace

- Every OM idea is false – produces a pseudo spiritual system mistaken for Christian life
- As we become aware of the false ideas within us, we are to remove them like dirty clothing

25 therefore – *dio* – conclusion based on what came before

25 having taken off the false, the fake – ho pseudos – the lie, the false – mask, pseudo way of relating

25 speak – *laleo* – onomatopoeia – word formed from the sound it makes – la, la, la, la – converse

- to chatter, to prattle on – day to day conversation – speak truth to one another in daily converse
- The idea expressed is to stop relating to fellow believers focused on worldly pursuits & issues
- Relate to fellow believers focused on how spiritual truth applies to everyday life – fellowship

25 neighbor – fellow believer – members of one another

- a) Eph 4 discusses how believers relate to one another as members of the body of Christ.
- b) Walk worthy – unified in Christ guarding the unity of the Spirit through Christian character – humility & respect, patience, forbearing one another in love – remembering our oneness; utilizing spiritual gifts to train & equip all believers, leading them to maturity, growing out of the instability of spiritual childhood, speaking the truth (truing) in love, growing together into the head, Christ, no longer living a double life, hanging onto the old while claiming to live the new, but taking off OM beliefs as they manifest in your life through emotion & behavior, be renewed by learning the truth and put on the new belief system in Christ.
- c) For these wonderful things to occur, we must stop being afraid that our weaknesses will be exposed & become genuine, honest & real with one another about our own challenges to grow.
- d) It is natural to maintain some privacy & to reserve your deepest thoughts for God alone, but by divine design we are meant to share deeply with one another, especially with a few, those whom we are compatible & that we can trust to keep our private things private.
- e) Truth: we are all born with sin nature, apart from God, develop wrong thinking, commit sins and must go through the transformation process to remove OM thinking, replacing it with NM.
- f) Truth: nothing that is wrong with you is uncommon among your fellow believers. We are all either a combination of both ascetic & lascivious, favoring one side or the other – produces different kinds of unacceptable behaviors – lascivious sinning or self-righteous human good.
- g) Pretending that we don't have problems, that we have it all together causes us to remain in superficial levels of relating with others, never helping or being helped with any significance.

Speaking the Truth

A. Greek:

- 1) *euaggelizo* – evangelize, announce good news, convey the gospel Lk 1:19, 2:10 Gabriel; Mt 11:5 Jesus; Lk 3:18 John Baptist; Act 5:42 Apostles; Act 8:4 scattered believers; Act 8:12 Phillip the Evangelist; Act 10:36 Peter. Anyone can convey the good news of the gospel but this word seems to be reserved primarily for gifted communicators.
- 2) *Kerusso* – herald of the King made public proclamations; Mt 3:1 John Baptist; Mt 4:17 Jesus; Act 9:20 Paul; Rev 5:2 Angels. Public preaching & proclaiming of God’s message. Used when referring to gifted communicators.
- 3) *Didasko* – to teach, explain – Mt 4:23 Jesus; Act 5:21 Apostles; Act 11:26 Paul & Barnabas; Act 15:1 Jews teaching false doctrine; Heb 5:12 mature believers; 1Jn 2:27 GHS. Teaching by gifted men, prepared believers or God Himself.
- 4) *Chrematizo* – to warn, to admonish – used only of God
- 5) *Lego* – to speak, to say – focus is on the content of what is said; All believers are intended to intentionally speak the truth to one another, focused on correct content.
- 6) *Laleo* – make a sound; onomatopoeia – word is formed according to how it sounds (sizzle). To chatter, to make conversation day to day. Believers are to focus on relating day to day with a genuineness that is intended to edify, not protecting ourselves from being exposed, but opening our hearts to one another in truth and love.
- 7) *Aletheuo* – truthing – telling each other the truth in love Eph 4:15

B. Truth, when understood, processed into the heart by faith & used to live our lives, frees us from the sin patterns of wrong thinking that we developed out of the devil’s world. John 8:32 John 8:32 and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

- **OM beliefs:** lies, falsehoods, misunderstandings we pick up & believe/ program our hearts – habituation
- **NM Beliefs:** beliefs used by Jesus in his humanity during the incarnation – mind-set of Christ
- **Freedom** – free from slavery of habituated OM thinking; free to be enslaved to Christ – habituate NM

C. Absolute truth – divine word & plan of God; situational truth – Mk 5:25- 33 woman with uterus cancer

- Absolute truth is that body of information given by God for man to use as his way of thinking & living
- Situational truth is an application of absolute truth, it is the characteristic of being truthful – honest, genuine, real, authentic, free from deceit Jn 1:47 Nathaniel, a man in whom is no guile – deceit

D. Obeying the truth, removing the false & embracing the truth enables us to grow into holy living.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

- **purified – hagios** – holy, pure rightness, goodness, God-likeness
- develops in us the capacity for selflessness & total generosity, able to love without conditions