

***Truth Rooted in Love***  
February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

***Ephesians 4:15***

*“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

As a congregation, we are called to be ministering to one another in unity of the faith and of the knowledge of Christ. We are to pursue maturity to the point of achieving the stature of the fullness of Christ, reaching stability against the deceitful winds of doctrines that attack the very foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ as well as His Word. How are we to minister one another and to attain unity of the faith? How are we to grow in the knowledge of Christ and achieve the stature of His fullness? How are we to be stable and firm in the midst of scheming and deceitful doctrines? “... ***Speaking the truth in love!***”

“**Cognate: 226** *alētheiō* (literally, "truthing") – speaking *reality* (truth) into a person's life, making a record of what *God* deems is *truth* (*reality, fact*). ...  
226 /*alētheiō* (literally, "to truth") includes Spirit-led confrontation where it is vital to tell the truth so others can live in *God's reality* rather than personal *illusion*.”<sup>1</sup>

**As believers we are committed to the truth of God**

↳ We live in a time when people claim to have the truth and to be following the truth, yet if this truth is not according to God's word, they are walking in deception.

**2 Timothy 4:1** “*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is the judge of the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His Kingdom: preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure the sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”*

- ❖ Timothy was entrusted to preach the Word of God!
- ❖ We preach the Word of God by reproving, rebuking, and exhorting with complete patience and teaching.
- ❖ The truth of God confronts sinful passions that are contrary to God's Word.
- ❖ When we are led by emotions and passions, we end up departing from the truth and living in a lie.
- ❖ When the truth of the Gospel is watered down, it's not rooted in the love of God, it's rooted in deception!

**1 Timothy 2:4** “[*God our Savior*] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

- ❖ God desires that all people come to the knowledge of the truth.
- ❖ In order for us to expose the truth, we need to know and love the truth.

**2 Timothy 2:15-16** “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,*”

- ❖ As believers we are commanded to rightly handle the word.
- ❖ Ungodliness is the result of wandering away from the truth.
- ❖ Many of the teachings that contradict Christian truths are justified by their promoters with biblical passages that have been twisted and misinterpreted.

## As believers we are to be driven by the love of God.

↳ As we grow in knowledge, it becomes easy to speak the truth out of conceit and legalism, but not motivated by love. The love that God showed toward us, that even while we were still sinners, Christ died for us – showing us that although we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 8:1-3** *“Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that ‘all of us possess knowledge.’ This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.”*

❖ Love and truth must go hand in hand in order for us to maintain the biblical balance.

❖ God does not want anyone to perish, but that everyone proceeds to repentance.

*2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

**Philippians 1:8-9** *“For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.”*

❖ The strong message of Paul to the church at Philippi is reinforced not only by knowledge but by a yearning affection that he had for them.

❖ When we really love someone, we have the freedom to speak truth into their lives without harshness.

**2 Timothy 2:23-26** *“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”*

❖ The motivation that leads us to teach the counsel of God is that perhaps the listeners come to repentance and the knowledge of truth.

### *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

*“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.”*

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> "Strong's Greek: 226 ἀληθεύοντες (alētheúō)" *Bible Hub*. © 2004 - 2016 by Bible Hub. <<http://biblehub.com/greek/226.htm>>.

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