

“GOSPEL Pair – Truth in Love”

Introduction:

“Good morning. With a show of hands, how many PERFECT Christians do we have with us today?”

So who is this guy?

- My testimony
 - Youth to adult – Trinity Baptist to Navy (6 yrs)
 - Adult to Christian – 25+ years of deception. Kent Manor Inn 2006 and 2012
 - Christian to Trustee (6yrs) Love for brothers and mutual respect
 - Trustee to Preacher - Who da thunk?
 - Rookie
 - Pastor in with us...

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Please pray with me for our time together...

T/S: Let's just jump right in together... I've entitled today's message

Sermon Title: “Truth in Love – a God-Honoring Balance”

T/S: What does Biblical “Truth **In** Love” really look like and who would it apply to and when?

TRUTHING IN LOVE. It is actually a verb and not a noun.

FACTing is not at all like TRUTHING. Pharisee.

Truthing in everything that we do.

Why do we need to tell them truth IN love? Here is the verse that encapsulates the entire week's reading.

Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men

in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

“This is how we always answer questions and treat others.”

BIG IDEA: *Biblical “truth in love” means...*
Everyone.
Everywhere.
Every time!

T/S: (Tell them what you are going to tell them. Preview points)
Audience, Argument, Antagonists, Activity, & Authenticity

Major Point #1: ***AUDIENCE***

(Explain what you mean & why this is a major point)

“What do I mean when I say audience?”

The Bible makes it clear that there are 3 separate categories of people. I would actually double that to 6.

All people fall into one of six categories: truth in love for all

Sheep: (Biblical Believers) John 10:14

Pre-Sheep-Goats: (A) “determined not to be, but end up as sheep” (Buddhists, Muslims, atheists, humanists or Universalists)

Pre-Sheep-Goats: (B) “deceived” (Go thru life thinking that they are, being really religious, but end up saved by grace in spite of their religion. Elect but don’t know it)

Eternal Goats: Matt 25:33, 41, 45-46 Satisfied in life and do not really need Jesus.

Pre-Sheep-Wolves: Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul killing Christians one day and Paul was preaching the Gospel the next.

Eternal Wolves: Matt 7:15, 10:16, Luke 10:3, Acts 20:29 Combative towards Christians, maybe even inside your own church.

Truth AND Love should NEVER be pitted against each other. They are mutually existent. Watch this to see how Pastor Mark Driscoll explains it.

Illustration: VIDEO - Driscoll

(You can’t pit truth against love 2:49min)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB9dv-HaYOg>

Application: (So what?)

T/S: No matter who we are talking with or where we are, the key is to never lose sight of who we are representing. This leads me to my 2nd point.

Major Point #2: *ARGUMENT*

(Explain what you mean: Christ & His Cross alone/sufficient)

One can make an argument that Truth is more important in some situations but love may be required in others.

I offer an example where both are equally sufficient.

1. Christ on the cross – the most beautiful example of God’s love for each and every one of us “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. He received the drink and the He said “It is finished”; and
2. “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.

**Everyone
Everywhere
Every time**

Illustration: You ever get in to silly debates over religious trivia?

Point – Counter Point?

How about CENTER-POINT?

Application: Will you be a caricature of a Christian or will you be The REAL DEAL?

Christ blows up all trivial arguments on the cross.

T/S: When you walk out these doors today, it may not happen this afternoon or this evening. It may not even happen this week, but you will face those who are antagonists.

Major Point #3: *ANTAGONISTS*

(Explain what you mean: Beware too much truth w/out love)

Antagonist will come from the full range of the spectrum. Cold Sheep, Grumpy Goats and Ravenous wolves.

This was me for 30 years. I knew just enough scripture to be dangerous in my social circles. People would mention Salvation and I would say “GOT

THAT!” I said Romans 10:9 when I was 12 yrs old.
Baptism? I Done did that!

Even after I finally surrendered to Christ 6 years ago, I still had that “truth edge” that over shadowed the love.

Look, if we are all honest, we all have an affinity for one side or the other. Either you are very comfortable with the TRUTH and you struggle with the LOVE or you are just flowing with LOVE, but telling the TRUTH is uncomfortable and not necessary at times. Non-confrontational.

I have heard Pastor Jeff use this illustration when someone was asked “**Hey brother, are you centered? They said, nope, but I am centering.**” We must always have the “WANT TO” to grow towards the CENTER. Biblical TRUTH has to be loving and Biblical LOVE has to be with Truth. Anything less is neither.

Watch what can happen if you get off balance and then we will pick back up afterwards.

Illustration: VIDEO – Drisoll

(Don't elevate doctrine above the Holy Spirit 2:26min)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUXfHaHUKvo>

Application:

T/S: So ideally we need to be hitting on all cylinders. What does it look like if we are hitting on all cylinders? That is when we start seeing activity.

Major Point #4: *ACTIVITY*

(Explain what you mean: Truth in love multiplies... “Dx3”)

Now we start to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

As we live out Truth IN Love, we will start to naturally build disciples.

If we build strictly from love, we may end up with a bunch of really nice people resting in the sovereignty of the Lord.

If we build heavier on the Truth, we could create a colony of Pharisees.

Neither methods are building disciples.

Let's take a look at what can happen when we get a God-Honoring BALANCE.

Illustration: VIDEO - Driscoll

(“When its hard to love people”3:38min)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_cvo24W0zQ

What happens when we finally get it right?

Application: Paul answers this for us in.....

Ephesians4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

WHY? Look at:

T/S: Ephesians4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

They are not authentic followers of Christ.

Major Point #5: *AUTHENTICITY*

(Explain what you mean: Truth in love means truth IN love)

You cannot have one without the other.

Everyone
Everywhere
Every time

Illustration:

Application: 1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

T/S: So let's pull all this together as we prepare to close...

CLOSE:

- 1). Summarize “Big Idea” & supporting points

**Biblical TRUTH IN LOVE means for
EVERYONE
Everywhere
Every time**

Know your AUDIENCE
**Nullify the ARGUMENTS with the sufficiency of
Christ crucified**
Be aware of the ANTAGONISTS
Watch how ACTIVE disciples make active disciples
Always be AUTHENTIC

You want Authenticity? Here is some transparency: This was me just a few short years ago.

I was recently humbled by a young lady who spoke absolutely NO WORDS.

2). **TAKE-AWAY APPLICATION: (VIDEO:
Emenuella message 4:13min)**
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
NR=1&v=3YXINEYdnkY&feature=fvwp](http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=3YXINEYdnkY&feature=fvwp)

Let's PRAY

^{John 17:17} Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Prayer VIDEOS Redeemed, The proof of your love, What If...