

# LOVE MATTERS MOST

*“Tell the Truth in Love”*

*1 Corinthians 13:6 (NLT)* Love rejoices in the truth.”

Being able to tell the truth in love starts with me.

If we do not first have truth or love in us, how can we overflow with truth and love to those around us.

**ME** *Our relationship with ourselves*

*As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself... Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, but humility.  
C.S. Lewis - Mere Christianity*

When we are honest and truthful with yourself, then we can take meaningful steps forward towards who we are created to be.

## IT MAKES US CREDIBLE

*Proverbs 11:3 (NLT)* "Honesty guides good people; dishonesty destroys treacherous people."

- Consistency builds credibility.

When truth comes first, consistency naturally follow, because truth never changes. We attract people's trust

## **IT IS AN OFFERING TO GOD**

*2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT) Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.*

- When you live with truth, your motives, intentions and actions become worthy of God's approval!
- We can have the courage to not be ashamed of what we do.

## **IT SETS US FREE**

*Proverbs 12:19 (NLT) "Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed."*

*If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.*

*- Mark Twain*

*A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.*

*- Charles Spurgeon*

***John 8:31-32 (NLT)** Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

***John 8:33 (NLT)** “But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?”*

- We can be slaves to our own lies, or the lies of others unknowingly.
- When we follow Jesus, His truth will set us free from all of those shackles!

**YOU** *Our relationship with those closest to us*

***Our closest relationships can only thrive when it's foundation is both truth and love.***

Truth and Love help us become more intentional and meaningful in our relationships.

## **HELP AND SUPPORT**

***Proverbs 24:26 (NLT)** An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship.*

- When you capture someone's heart, you capture the person.
- Telling the truth in Love is the only effective and straight forward path to someone's heart.

**Proverbs 28:23 (NLT)** *"In the end, people appreciate honest criticism far more than flattery."*

*When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear. - Thomas Sowell*

## **WE KEEP EACH OTHER HEALTHY**

**Proverbs 12:18 (NLT)** *Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.*

- We have a creative potential in our words.
- We have the power to bring healing with our words.

**Ephesians 4:25 (NLT)** *So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.*

- Telling the truth in love is how we keep the body of Christ healthy.
- The truth is needed so the body can function correctly.

## **IT IS GOD'S DESIGN FOR RELATIONSHIP**

**Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)** *And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. ' <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important:*

*‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”*

- Even Jesus could not separate the love of others from the essentials of life.
- If you live a life that is not lived in love for others, are you truly living a life at all?

*1 John 3:16 (NLT) We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

Jesus, our greatest model and example lived a sacrificial life, we too should live a similar life.

Our closest relationships can only thrive when it's foundation is both truth and love.

We are all called to community and it is up to us to take part in making that community grow strong, healthy and fruitful.

**US** *Our relationship with the community/church*

## **WE HELP EACH OTHER GROW**

*Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

- We should not follow a cookie cutter model in how we do community and discipleship.
- We must build each other up according to each person's needs.

*Proverbs 13:17 (tlb) "Reliable communication permits progress."*

**When truth is paramount in any community, things just get done.**

It is only when everyone is in unity that the many hands can make light work. And there is nothing more unifying than love and truth.

## **WE COVER FAULTS**

*Ephesians 4:2 (NLT) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*

*1 Peter 4:8 (NLT) Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.*

*Ephesians 4:15 (NLT) "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church."*

When we tell the truth in love, and live it out in all spheres of life, we become more like Christ.