

WYSIWYG ~ What You See Is What You Get

Long Beach Alliance Church January 11, 2015 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up
in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...**

~Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)

1) The Love Language Of God

- A) In the same way people have “love languages,” the phrase coined by Christian author and counselor Gary Chapman, Ph.D. describing the ways people give and receive love in relationships (words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch); God also has a love language with people. Simply, God’s love language is “truth,” spoken through Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God (John 1:1-18).
- B) God speaks the truth through Jesus, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6) and came “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, 16-17). The truth of Christ comes in grace [attitude of undeserved goodness or favor], and is secured in the life of every faithful follower of Christ through the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17).
- C) The truth is a distinctive marker of all Christ’s followers (John 17:17) and an authenticating sign of being a Christ follower is increasingly living according to the truth (John 14:26, 16:13). Jesus was born to reveal the truth and all who are authentically of the truth will listen to Jesus Christ (John 18:37).

2) Culture of Confusion

- A) Like Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor who condemned Jesus to death by crucifixion, many in our culture ask “what is truth?” with insincerity (John 18:38). This actually reveals an intellectual and moral malaise flowing from a sophisticated suppression of the truth in themselves and their friends (Romans 1:18-25).
- B) The Ephesian church was being swayed away from growing into the “fullness of Christ,” revealing an immaturity manifesting itself in lacking “unity of the faith” (Ephesians 4:13). Simply, they were turning from the truth to a culture of varied “doctrines,” exalting “human cunning,” and “crafty scheming” (4:14).
- C) The culture around us seems to have good questions (e.g. “what is truth?”), but these clever questions deliver emptiness resulting in destruction, an eventual final legacy of death. That which seems like freedom only leads to slavery (cf. Romans 6:16-18). Rather than adopting these methods of our culture/world, we are to “grow up in every way into... Christ,” those who are “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15).

3) What You See Is What You Get ~ The Truth Is Jesus Spoken In Love

- A) Under the headship of Christ among His people (the church), we mature “into Christ” (4:15), contrasting cultural/worldly methods (4:14) with “speaking the truth in love” (4:15). The church represents Christ’s voice, standing in dramatic contrast to the culture because of a unified dedication to truth expressed in love.
- B) This constructs (“builds,” 4:16) unity in every aspect of the church (“whole body”). The church, including you and me, are the viewable ‘edifice’ of a life of unity “in Christ.” The building of unity among the diversity of the church (“when each part is working properly”) provides what the world/culture cannot.
- C) The church physically lives out the authenticity of an ultimate legacy (inheritance) of new life in Christ. This is the ROI (“return on investment”) of Christ’s blood in His people (cf. 1:7, 2:13, 3:10), answering the question, “is Christ really for real?” When the body is alive in Christ we live and speak the Truth (Christ) in love!



Growth Group Guide

“what you see is what you get”
ephesians 4:14-16
january 11-16, 2015

Looking Up!

In these verses where can we see God’s Grace, Provision, and Power?

“In love” is mentioned two times in Ephesians 4:15-16, neatly beginning and ending the verses. How do you experience this love? How do you connect with its source?

Leaning In!

Paul establishes two conditions for healthy church body growth found in vss. 15 & 16. See if you can identify them and articulate them clearly.

Why do you think churches use (at times), guilt, shame, force, manipulation, and coercion to accomplish growth?

Stepping Out!

How can an authentic “what you see is what you get” type of faith affect your relationships with neighbors/co-workers/unbelieving friends?

Respond!

Is there an area of your life where speaking the “truth in love” would be truly life-changing? Please share this with your group for prayer and support in treating others as Christ has treated us!

This Week!

Focus on “Truth” this week. What is the truth? How can we know the truth? Pray that God’s Spirit reveals the truth in the person of Jesus as we seek Him this week.

This Week I’ll Pray For...

