

DECLARING TRUTH

Ephesians 4:15 (NCV)

One of the difficulties Pastors can face is declaring the TRUTH- *You may be shocked by that statement...*

The reason for this is sometimes: Truth is difficult to hear, conflicting to desires, offends us, is challenging, is costly... So Pastor's can struggle with declaring truth! In the passage we are going to look at, we see some keys for declaring truth successfully.

Ephesians 4:15 (NCV) ¹⁵ Speaking the truth with love, we will grow up in every way into Christ...

I THE NEED FOR LOVE:

A- The foundation for declaring truth actually starts in you-

1. What we need first is a love for God, and then a love for people!

a. **Matt 22:37-39** And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor

2. PG has often taught that what men of God need is a “LOVE for people, and a PASSION for souls!”

a. This heart foundation equips us to tell the truth!

3. It changes our perspective about the sting of truth from, that's too difficult... to because I love you I will tell you

a. **Prov27:6** Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

4. If you are struggling to say the truth in life, in marriage, with your kids, with your disciples, in your council, or preaching...

a. The issue may be a new revelation and understanding of LOVE!

b. **John 14:15** If you love me, you will keep my commandments... Love motivates us to make the hard decisions of truth.

II TRUTH IN LOVE:

A- Now, speaking the truth is needed, but equally important is HOW we communicate the truth-

1. **V15** Speaking the truth with love... You can say the same truth multiple ways...

a. One way is truth without love... The other is truth with love.

2. PG has taught us; You need to think about what people NEED...

a. Do they struggle with rejection, are they going through a difficult season (sickness or loss), are they hurting?

i. You may need to speak truth, it has to be done... but HOW should it be done? How should truth be packaged?

B- This goes back to the need for Love... If my premise is love, then I will have the sense and skill to deliver well.

1. This is PEOPLE SKILLS: the abilities that enable effective and positive interactions with others.

a. Do they need truth direct? Do they need truth sandwiched? Do they need truth in bite sized pieces?

b. The mistake is men that deliver the truth by demand, ultimatums, fear, insults, anger... Not helpful!

2. It has to be done, but how will they hear the message the best?

a. **1 Tim 1:5** Now the goal of our instruction is love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and a sincere faith,

3. You will help yourself greatly when you deliver truth where people can receive it.

a. PG teaches: INSPIRATION... Inspire people to do right!

III GROWING IN CHRIST:

A- The hope and goal of declared truth is that people will grow in God!

1. **V15** Speaking the truth with love, we will grow up in every way into Christ.

a. The goal of declaring truth should be for people to grow in salvation!

2. So when we gain a heart for God and people, we will be able to help people step into greater revelation, ministry, calling... because we came along side them and told them the truth in a way they could receive and apply it.

3. Years ago, I spoke with a man that was involved in ministry and consuming entertainment... I challenged him and told him the truth in love.

a. He made some radical decisions and changed things in his home and spiritual life... he started to become discipled.

b. Today he is Pastoring in Boston area... recently had 38 in service...

c. That's the potential of truth declared in love!