

2. THOU SHALT SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

- It is so good to know that you can _____ the person that you are speaking with!
When you don't trust another, you are constantly wrestling with uncertainty.
- **Example:** Have you ever had a friend that was gaslighting you?
Gaslighting (noun / verb) "the practice of psychologically manipulating someone into questioning their own sanity, memory, or powers of reasoning."

"He was the victim of gaslighting." _____. "My friend is gaslighting me." _____.

It is REFRESHING to have a true and faithful friend that is clear and direct in what they are saying.

- Let's speak the truth in our communication with one another.

Ephesians 4:11–16 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

What is the goal of this focus?

¹³Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Unity and Christ-like maturity.

Why do we need it?

¹⁴That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Lying liars everywhere.

Example: Hymenaeus.

We need to KNOW what the Word teaches so that we don't fall for all the lies.

- It is going to take _____ to catch _____ aimed at believers.
What is God's plan for that?

¹⁵**But speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

¹⁶From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- **What does "speaking the truth in love" produce?**

- People _____ spiritually because of your communication with them. **Vs 15**

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

How do God's people learn?

Isaiah 28:9–10 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. ¹⁰For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; **here a little, and there a little:**

This is what the Holy Spirit does when He speaks to us!

John 16:12–15 I have yet many things to say unto you, but **ye cannot bear them now**.¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come**.¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that **he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you**.

KEY: Let all communication _____.

Job 4:4 **Thy words have upholden him that was falling**, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees.

2 Corinthians 12:19 Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? **we speak** before God in Christ: but **we do all things**, dearly beloved, **for your edifying**.

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. **Let all things be done unto edifying**.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, **and things wherewith one may edify another**.

Ephesians 4:29–32 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but **that which is good to the use of edifying**, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, **whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption**.³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When Wisdom speaks in Proverbs 8, what does she do?

Proverbs 8:6–10 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and **the opening of my lips shall be right things**.⁷ **For my mouth shall speak truth**; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.⁸ All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.⁹ **They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge**.¹⁰ Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

- The local church grows in _____ and _____ because of your communication. **Vs 16**

Ministry Principle #8: We protect unity.

- Understand our _____.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, **speaking every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another**.

What hurts and hinders you also hurts and hinders me.

If your _____ in Christ is not growing and thriving, then you are _____!

Romans 12:14–18 Bless them which persecute you: **bless, and curse not**.¹⁵ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and **weep with them that weep**.¹⁶ **Be of the same mind one toward another**. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.