

TRUTHING IN LOVE

Ephesians 4:15-16

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2018-05-27

1. Series review (ASK AUDIENCE)
 - a. **The church is like a BODY**
 - i. Diversity of members, all united
 - ii. Each part vital
 - iii. United through the **MYSTICAL UNION** – with Christ and w/ other believers
 - b. **Jesus has given gifts to each member** of the body, to help build it up in love
 - i. Each member is vital, each gift is vital
 - ii. Steward what you've been given
 - iii. Spur each other on
 - c. **The Body is not an institution, but organic**
 - i. Jesus is the head
 - ii. **Leaders don't do the ministry, they equip the members to do the ministry!**
 1. Leaders equip
 2. The people do the ministry
2. Lots of content thus far...
3. TODAY We're going to get really practical – talk about what this would really look like
4. Start off by reading Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV) [main memory verse passage!]
 - a. ¹⁵ Rather, **speaking the truth** in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
5. **[PRAY]**
6. "Truthing"

ἀληθεύοντες - [alētheuontes](#)

- a. literally, "truthing"
 1. – speaking *reality* (truth) into a person's life, making a record of what *God* deems is *truth* (*reality, fact*). [See 225](#) (*alētheia*).
 2. truth = reality
- b. Being real – not fake
- c. Hypocrisy
- d. We're to live fully in line with this reality about the church and our roles in it.
- e. Truthing IN LOVE
 - i. So the Body builds itself up in love!
- f. Contemporary antithesis
 - i. Love w/o truth
 - ii. Truth w/o love (selfish, annoyance based)
- g. In the Body – we're in to TRUTHING IN LOVE
 - i. This combo is a powerhouse
 - ii. Both together – THAT'S where things start happening

- iii. THAT'S where neighbors start to notice
 - iv. THAT'S where the body really begins building itself up in love
 - v. Here are Tallgrass, we want to create THIS kind of culture. Where we are committed to TRUTHING in love!
7. This is likely very different from what you've thought of church
- a. Especially if you haven't experienced it before
 - b. And as we've been learning, the work of the church – the ministry, is not the leaders' jobs – IT'S YOURS!
 - i. Ours
 - ii. We're all together in this Body trying to function together.
 - iii. And we all have a vital part to play.
 - iv. Some will play to our unique gifts, others to our general place and responsibility as part of the Body.
8. So what might this look like?
9. The Happies and Crappies OF TRUTHING IN LOVE
- a. Start with the Crappies
 - b. Why WOULDN'T you wanna live TRUTHING IN LOVE in the Body?
 - c. **(CRAPPY #1) I'll actually have to do something**
 - i. Can't just come to passively consume, then leave
 - ii. Something is required of you
 - iii. Actually a LOT is required of you!
 - 1. Because it's not just about you.
 - iv. Since the church leaders aren't there to DO THE MINISTRY --- that means its on us – on you – all the parts of the body – to do the ministry of loving and caring and building up the Body.
 - v. That may seem like a bummer for someone just wanting to check the religious box or looking simply to get their needs met
 - vi. It may feel like DEATH to those committed to their own individualism
 - 1. For whom everything must be sacrificed on the alter of their own preferences, desires, ambitions, and interests
 - vii. And many will stop right here
 - d. **(HAPPY #1) I get to do something truly meaningful and exciting**
 - i. So many of us are so bored with church, that the prospect of church life being exciting and truly meaningful seems like a hipster pipe dream.
 - ii. But Jesus knows that we weren't made to be passive consumers.
 - 1. What REALLY makes our heart sing necessarily includes work that matters
 - 2. That's exciting.
 - 3. That's meaningful
 - iii. And that's what He invites us into in his Body!
 - 1. The Life of ministry is definitely a lot of work – but it's life that's really life!
 - 2. Basement couch potatoes will moan at the prospect of having to get outside and do something.
 - a. But once they do, and especially do it for long enough to change habits, they're hooked!
 - b. Doing something that matters energizes their soul
 - 3. That and SO MUCH MORE in the Body of Christ

4. Contrary to popular belief, THIS is the good stuff! – The life of ministry
 - a. THIS is the real, exciting fulfilling life!
 - b. So don't wait around for Ben and I to meet needs, take initiative and try it yourself
 - c. OR BETTER YET, invite a friend or two along!
- e. (CRAPPY #2) I can't stay detached from people's problems – from the mess**
- i. We're a part of the same body.... So their mess IS my mess.
 - ii. We're called to step into other people's mess. Just like Jesus did.
 1. And it cost him dearly.
 - iii. That means you will have to wade into relational, emotional, spiritual mess that is not your own.
 1. You will have to go waste deep into painful and messy situations that you wouldn't otherwise have to deal with had you stayed detached...
 - iv. Yes it will cost you something!
 1. YES IT WILL BE AWKWARD
 2. Yes they might not appreciate what you're doing (especially in the moment)
 3. It will not be comfortable.
 4. It will not be fair
 5. It will not be convenient
 - v. This will be a significant deterrent for some who frankly don't really care about others
 1. At least not enough to pay any personal price for them
- f. (HAPPY #2) I'll experience God using me to bring healing and hope to others**
- i. Connects to #1
 - ii. Again, even though it's messy and uncomfortable, engaging with other people's problems in the Body of Christ can be strangely life giving
 - iii. Not only does it bless others
 - iv. But it blesses you too! In measure far beyond the negatives of the discomfort of engagement.
 1. You experience God working Good through you!
 2. You watch as He brings real healing, real hope, into the lives of others.
 3. And you experience the thrill (and humble pride) of God working some of that THROUGH YOU
 4. Now THAT'S a drug you can get hooked on!
- g. (CRAPPY #3) People will see MY junk**
- i. Not only will I have to engage with other people's mess, but others will have to do that with me too!
 - ii. I won't be able to maintain my image
 1. The life I portray on Instagram
 - iii. Eventually, folks will see the real me.
 1. And for many, that's their greatest fear in life.
 2. And they may jet right here
 - iv. Additionally, Extreme Confidentiality in our culture is seen as an inalienable right!!

1. We've become so selfish, so individualistic, that we've come to think no one should ever know my problems. No one has the right to speak into my life – especially when I don't want it. Especially if it might hurt my feelings.
 2. THE SAME GOES for speaking into OTHERS lives ... that's NOT my business.
 - a. Don't stare. Eyes forward. Smile and pretend all is well so it's not awkward.
- h. (HAPPY #3) I'll experience profound love and acceptance as I let others see my mess**
- i. THIS WILL NOT FEEL NATURAL – especially to start
 1. convoluted in large part by what our Extreme Americanized Privacy demand
 - ii. But in the Body of Christ, Our Extreme Americanized Privacy will have to go!
 1. We're all in the same body, members of one another
 2. That means your business IS my business
 - a. AND mine is yours!
 3. If the liver is having problems. If it's failing. Maybe cancerous. Does the liver have the right to keep that confidential from the rest of the body?
 4. OF COURSE NOT!
 - a. If the Liver goes, we all go! So the liver's business IS THE WHOLE BODY'S BUSINESS!
 - iii. But we must risk opening up our lives – being REAL – TRUTHING – with others in our church. Risk being seen as messy. Letting your junk catch the light.
 1. It's the only way for us to live out the life he wants for us.
 2. The only path toward TRUE healing from our shame and fear.
 - iv. Yes we might get hurt sometimes. But more often than not, we're going to be loved and accepted... and our hearts will heal in the light of the love of Christ in his Body.
 1. One of the greatest needs of the human heart is to be seen and known, AND LOVED AND ACCEPTED, at the very same time.
 2. We have this through Jesus, and we experience it through his Body
- i. These last 2 kinda go together –*
- j. Based on the premise of Body Life that we don't have infinite resources, and we have to use what we have wisely.
- i. You will have to choose NOT to do some things you're used to doing so you can choose TO DO some things in the Body
 - ii. I'm not talking about church meetings, though perhaps that's a next step for some
 - iii. I'm talking about needing to do actual, boots on the ground prioritizing that will make you feel initially uncomfortable
- k. (CRAPPY #4) Less Money for me**
- i. Choose to use less of your money for “me”, so that you can begin giving sacrificially to the ministry of God through his Body – the church
 1. Yes. God does instruct us to give sacrificially. Meaning it needs to be an actual sacrifice. There needs to be things you WANT TO DO but cant because of your commitment to give.
 2. Your standard of living must be significantly reduced because of your commitment to give.

3. You have to FEEL IT.
 4. For some, giving that \$50/mo is truly sacrificial – they’re barely eking by and that’s a faith step – they feel it!
 - a. But for others, they could give double, 10x, 50x more than they’re presently giving AND STILL NOT FEEL IT SIGNIFICANTLY in their standard of living.
 - ii. For many Americans, this is where they get off the bus.
 1. They’re fine paying their membership fees each month to be a member of their church club – as long as they’re getting what they want out of it.
 2. Best bang for the buck.
 3. Most amenities for the least price (this is the American way!)
 4. But once it starts to look like it’s really going to cost them – they’re out, looking for a church with a better deal.
- l. What might God call you INTO if you freed up some of “your” money?
- m. (HAPPY #4) HAPPINESS FOR ME**
- i. It really is more blessed “HAPPY” to give than to receive! (Acts 20:35)
 - ii. He’s inviting you into HAPPINESS!
 - iii. Happiness as you begin to step away from selfish consumerism and fear
 1. And step into trust and peace in Christ
 - iv. But also Happiness of someone who invests their money WELL!
 1. When I find a really good deal, it makes me happy!
 2. What if you could go back and invest \$1K in Microsoft... On March 13, 1986 – those 50 shares of Microsoft’s IPO of \$21 would now be worth nearly a million bucks!
 - a. That’d make me happy!
 3. What if you could go back even further and invest in Rockefeller’s Standard Oil back in 1870. Even a few bucks invested then would have made you a multi-millionaire today.
 - a. MEGA HAPPY!
 4. SO IMAGINE, 200 years from now, when you’ve passed over into the next life and could look back on now. What would you give then for the chance to invest NOW in the Kingdom of God WHILE YOU STILL COULD?
 - a. How much would you wish you’d have given NOW?
 - b. That’s the actual situation we’re in.
 5. This is the true riches
 - a. The true happiness
 - b. The Bible calls it joy
- n. (CRAPPY #5) Less TIME for me**
- i. “One of the great illusions of our day is that hurrying will buy us more time.” – **John Ortberg Jr., The Life You’ve Always Wanted**
 1. We all have the same amount of time. 24 hours per day. Nothing we’ve accomplished has allowed us to add a single minute to that static allowance.
 2. So we have to prioritize. No way around it.
 - ii. You may have to choose to say no to some good things you could do with your time, so you can have time for the best things.
 1. Some are easy. Your amusement time might get cut some.

- a. You may have to cut back on the hours per week (or DAY!) of binge watching Netflix shows...
 - b. Or playing hours of video games
 - c. SO THAT you can have time to engage with others in ministry in the Body
 - 2. Some get a little harder – you might have to cut down time with some hobbies –
 - a. Things that can more easily feel like rights
 - i. Those hours on the lake fishing.
 - ii. Those hours every weekend watching your sportsball of choice!
 - iii. All your kids’ extra-curricular activities.
 - iv. INCLUDING Fitness!
 - 1. For some, physical fitness eats up nearly ALL of their free time. So that though their physical bodies might be in shape, their engagement in the body of Christ is a joke.
 - a. What if we cut down some of our time shaping our mortal bodies so that we could build up the eternal body of Christ?
 - v. Technological connection time
 - 1. Smartphone
 - 2. FB, pintrist, you name it
 - 3. What if we stopped mislabeling our hobbies as RIGHTS and started submitting them to the Lord?
 - a. God’s not in the business of making our lives miserable. He wants to help us learn to rest and create and be healthy individually.
 - b. But he may set different parameters on them than you would.
- o. (HAPPY #5) More fulfilling relationships FOR ME**
 - i. “No matter how little money we have, no matter what rung we occupy on anybody’s corporate ladder of success, in the end what everybody discovers is that what matters is other people. Human beings who give themselves to **relational greatness**—who have friends they laugh with, cry with, learn with, fight with, dance with, live and love and grow old and die with—these are the human beings who lead magnificent lives.”
— **John Ortberg Jr., Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them**
 - ii. RELATIONAL GREATNESS!
 - 1. This is what my heart was made for!
 - 2. In the end, it’s not more of self that fulfills self, it’s more of others.
 - iii. **CS Lewis, The Weight of Glory** - “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption.”
 - iv. THIS is where TRUTHING in LOVE rubber meets the road.
 - 1. Living in line with reality means prioritizing investing in people.
 - 2. The only thing in all God’s creation that will last forever

3. People.
 4. We must take this seriously – with the end in mind.
 5. **Another way to say this: I’LL GET TO INVEST IN PEOPLE!**
- v. How might this look?
1. **Put Down your Smartphone** and look a real person in the eye
 - a. Starting at home
 - i. With your kids
 - ii. Your spouse
 - b. You think it’s making you happy. Helping you connect. But ...
 - i. IT’S NOT WORKING – in fact it’s doing the opposite. Making us disconnected, depressed, desperate, lonely, and relationally inept at a breakneck pace!
 - c. Once you’ve taken that first step, then next one follows:
 2. **Consider how you could bless** the person you’re looking at
 - a. Start like we’ve said before, by inviting others in to the things you’re already doing.
 - i. LOOK FOR WAYS TO LEVERAGE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS FOR THE KINGDOM!
 - b. Especially those members of the body that seem to struggle to connect. Who seem weak or unpresentable. Awkward.
 - i. THOSE are the people God wants you to invite to your softball league.
 - ii. THOSE are the people God wants you to have over for dinner
 - iii. THOSE are the people God wants you to ask caring personal below-the-surface questions as you’re hanging out after LIFE Group when you could go chew the fat with your buddies in the kitchen.
 - iv. Who would benefit from a personal invite? – even if they’re going to drag down your Ultimate team because they’re about as chubby as they are lonely?
 3. **Be a good neighbor**
 - a. Have an eye out for folks in your neighborhood
 - b. Actually say hi. Actually learn their names
 - c. Actually seek to be a friend to them. Learn their needs and try to meet them.
 - d. Invite them to your BBQs
 - e. Lend them your yard tools
 - i. OR, like I did, accept their offer of a hedge trimmer!
 - ii. Often the best thing you can do to start is accept THEIR offers of hospitality and care.
 - iii. Risk being needy!
 4. **Get involved in a LIFE Group**
 - a. Our small-medium sized groups where you can really get to know others, and let them get to know you
 - b. Where most of the nitty gritty “real” church life happens.

- c. Where we practice being the body... Where we experience the most significant healing and life change.
- 5. **Consider discipling** someone in your LIFE Group
 - a. Meet together periodically for intentional times of relational and spiritual connection and growth
 - b. More about this later
- 6. **Look for opportunities to get equipped**
 - a. – TO BETTER INVEST IN PEOPLE & THE BODY!
 - b. **Reclaim Sunday sermons**
 - i. Come prepared to actually engage
 - ii. Expect to learn and grow from the teaching
 - iii. Teach yourself to actually pay REAL attention
 - iv. You don't get ANY gold stars with Jesus for dutifully sitting through even one sermon!
 - 1. Sorry folks!
 - v. So why not reorient your thinking – IM TALKING TO CHURCH FOLKS HERE! – and reclaim Sunday Sermons
 - 1. That's why we call them TEACHINGS
 - c. **Xenos Summer Institute**
 - d. **Equipping classes** – WHAT WILL WE CALL THEM?
 - e. **Chat n Chews** over lunch hour – moms can do this!
 - f. Get in the habit of **listening to quality teachings/podcasts** when you drive or run.
 - i. Including sermons, lectures, conferences, debates, etc
 - g. **Read a challenging book** – not for pleasure (though you might end up enjoying it!) but rather to help you grow in your understanding of an aspect of ministry or theology.
 - i. Talk to Ben or I for suggestions!
 - h. **Do an in-depth bible study** on a particular book. Then write a book report after
 - i. I promise you this will REVOLUTIONIZE your ability to learn and enjoy learning the Bible
 - ii. Book report could be just to help you learn and remember
 - iii. But also could be useful to the church!
 - iv. Biblical study and teaching NOT JUST FOR PASTORS
- 7. The list goes on...

10. So which list wins out for you?

- a. The Crappies, or the Happies?
 - i. Only you can make this choice!
 - ii. But as for me, I'm all in – the Happies seem to FAR OUTWEIGH the Crappies!
- b. Why NOT take some steps toward TRUTHING IN LOVE?
- c. Toward doing AND BEING church differently?
- d. Why NOT try to really do this thing?

- e. If we're to live lives of truthing – living in line with REALITY -- If we really believe that Jesus not only is real, but that everything he said was true, then why WOULDN'T WE radically reorient our lives so we could invest our time and money in these things?
 - i. In the Body of Christ -- In the church
 - ii. In people
 - iii. In ministry work
 - iv. In ministry skills
 - v. In the Kingdom of God that will last FOREVER and EVER
- f. Let's DO THIS!
- g. It's not about perfection, it's about progress. It's about taking steps. Learning to walk at times. And letting God cause the growth.
- h. The life that is never boring, profoundly meaningful, and full of stories – written by God, on the paper of our very lives.
 - i. His masterpiece that he's been working on since he formed the earth, and breathed life itself into man.
- i. Why not join with us here at Tallgrass, as we journey together in THAT story?
- j. Why not join us in TRUTHING in love?

11. Discussion questions?

- a. What's something that hit you today?
- b. What's a next step for you with this stuff?

12. PRAY – invite Peter up (**END AT 6:58pm**)

CHOPPING BLOCK:

Watchman Nee: The Normal Christian Life:

When I see this, I shall at once have done with independence and shall seek fellowship. The life of Christ in me will gravitate to the life of Christ in others. I can no longer take an individual line. Jealousy will go. Competition will go. Private work will go. My interests, my ambitions, my preferences, all will go. It will no longer matter which of us does the work. All that will matter will be that the Body grows.

13. Falsehood

- a. We don't really have a problem with falsehood right?
- b. WRONG
- c. Contemporary examples of socially normative falsehoods
 - i. White lies
 - ii. Great aversion to hurting anyone's feelings, offending anyone
 1. Even to the point where we say things that aren't true
 - iii. BEING FAKE
 1. How are you? Fine
 - a. To a point
 2. Angry rushing with fam to church then smiles
 3. Indirect passive aggressive!
 - a. Spinelessness in leadership
 4. I'll be praying for you
 5. We should get together sometime
 6. Materialism!!! (maybe?)
 7. Pretending you're someone you aren't

14. CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. We've become so selfish, so individualistic, that we've come to think no one should ever know my problems. No one has the right to speak into my life – especially when I don't want it. Especially if it might hurt my feelings.
 - i. WE CRY FOUL!
 - ii. Evil
 - iii. Hate speech
 - iv. Intolerant
 - v. THE SAME GOES for speaking into OTHERS lives ... that's NOT my business.
 1. Eyes forward. Smile and pretend all is well so it's not awkward.
- b. And if we must share something, about ourselves, or someone else, we demand it stay secret!
 - i. How many times has someone come up to you, IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, and said something like, "I need to tell you something, but first you must promise not to tell anyone else!"
 1. THIS likely happens all the time!
- c. Confidentiality in our culture is seen as an inalienable right!!
 - i. But not so in the Body of Christ!
 - ii. We're all in the same body, members of one another
 - iii. That means your business IS my business
 1. AND mine is yours!

- iv. Our Extreme Americanized Privacy will have to go!
- v. If the liver is having problems. If it's failing. Maybe cancerous. Does the liver have the right to keep that confidential from the rest of the body?
- vi. OF COURSE NOT!
 - 1. If the Liver goes, we all go! So the liver's business IS THE WHOLE BODY'S BUSINESS!
- d. Of course, there are parameters about when to tell and when not to tell. The Bible graciously gives clear directions on both!
 - i. The Bible is clear that both slander (sharing info we believe to be false) and gossip (sharing info we believe to be true) are sinful as the object of both is to put DOWN the other while simultaneously lifting up self.
 - 1. Gossip is essentially TRUTHING IN HATE
 - ii. But there's copious Biblical imperatives about when we MUST share info about our own and others' sins. FOR THEIR GOOD! For their protection, healing, and protection of the growing Body as a whole.
 - 1. Ie: TRUTHING IN LOVE
 - 2. Our desire is for health! Of the body and all its members!
 - iii. *For more info, Read Loving God's Way, Appendix 1: Confidentiality in the Body of Christ!*
 - 1. *I can email you a copy of this chapter if you're interested, just ask*

15. Smartphones

- a. SO WHY NOT sacrifice some of that screen time – it's not working anyways – and invest it otherwise in what can actually satisfy
 - i. Time with your kids (NO PHONES! – For you OR THEM)
 - ii. Intentional Time with your spouse (NO SMARTPHONES IN OR BESIDE THE BED!)
 - iii. Time with friends (NO SMARTPHONES AS YOU TALK!)
 - iv. Time with your neighbors (WHEN YOUR PHONE BUZZES, DON'T CHECK IT IMMEDIATELY, KILLS CONVERSATION)
 - v. Time in prayer or reading God's word
 - 1. PUT YOUR PHONE ON 'DO NOT DISTURB MODE" – or even better, turn it off
 - 2. how hard this is for you will be telling!
 - vi. TIME of STRATEGIC BOREDOM
 - vii. When's the last time you were bored? And didn't immediately try to kill the silence with music or pulling your smartphone out of your pocket?
 - 1. It's only when we let our minds sit. Undistracted. Wandering. That you actually begin to hear what's really going on inside – and begin to make out the voice of God's Spirit.
 - 2. Personal reflection. Everyone in the history of mankind has engaged constantly, normatively in this practice... until now.
 - a. And we're losing our very selves.
 - viii. WE DEPERATELY NEED TO RECLAIM BOREDOM!
 - b. SKY'S THE LIMIT HERE --- this one's a no brainer!

1. Some more TRUTHING practicals

- a. Putting away falsehood, speaking the truth

- i. Our words have incredible power – FAR more than most of us realize
 - 1. Prov 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue
 - 2. ^{Proverbs 15:2} The tongue of the wise makes knowledge appealing, but the mouth of a fool belches out foolishness.
 - a. Fool- moron
 - i. Fool not silly person, him morally against God – actively resisting God and his wisdom
 - 3. ^{1Pet1:22} You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters.
 - a. SINCERE - Anupokritos = not like the Hypocrites
 - b. We don't really have a problem with falsehood right?
 - c. WRONG
 - d. Contemporary examples of socially normative falsehoods
 - i. White lies
 - ii. Great aversion to hurting anyone's feelings, offending anyone
 - 1. Even to the point where we say things that aren't true
 - iii. BEING FAKE
 - 1. How are you? Fine
 - a. To a point
 - 2. Angry rushing with fam to church then smiles
 - 3. Indirect passive aggressive!
 - a. Spinelessness in leadership
 - 4. I'll be praying for you
 - 5. We should get together sometime
 - 6. Materialism!!! (maybe?)
 - 7. Pretending you're someone you aren't
- ii. God can use our truthing – speaking the truth in love – for great GOOD too!
 - 1. With great power comes GREAT responsibility
 - 2. God can use your speech to build up His Body
 - 3. Most people don't realize the awesome power of their words!
 - 4. Every interaction is an opportunity to show God's grace to someone
 - 5. Just imagine its power when used *in love*!
 - 6. It can reveal truth, build up, protect from lies,
 - 7. It can give grace, inspire vision, change lives!
 - 8. Examples
 - a. Recognizing an effort
 - b. Affirming potential
 - c. Reminding of key truths
 - d. Spurring on against adversity/negativity
 - e. Show grace/gratitude
 - f. Giving a vision
 - g. Instruct
 - h. Correct
 - i. Warn
 - j. Exhort
 - k. Reprove
 - l. Rebuke

- iii. Encouragement & Admonition
 - 1. We need BOTH – both truth in love
 - a. Often at same time
 - 2. Admonition has gotten a bad rap
 - a. Positive examples
 - i. Paul to the Ephesians in Acts 20:17-18, 25-32, 36-38
 - b. How Paul protect them from these wolves?
 - i. V 31 – ADMONITION – with tears
 - c. They responded WELL
- iv. What stops us speaking the truth in love?
 - 1. We don't see what's happening in each other's lives
 - a. Because we're isolated
 - b. Because most people don't spend much time thinking about other people at all!
 - c. Because I don't *want* to see
 - 2. We see, but don't speak
 - a. Because if I speak – then I'll be *involved*
 - b. Because I may have to pay a relational price
 - i. Acts 20:31!
 - ii. There may be a price to pay...
 - iii. "sacrificial love"
 - c. stage fright
 - d. Probably someone else will do it
 - e. Because it gets harder with age
 - f. Because I don't want them to do it back!
- v. What might happen if we Don't speak the truth to our neighbor?
 - 1. The issue goes unaddressed...
 - a. Possible snowballing damage to them and others
 - b. We get further apart...
 - i. and irritated...
 - ii. Love without Truth...
- vi. Are you willing to *receive* the truth in love?
- vii. Pray, thinking about others:
 - 1. "What is God doing in their life right now? "
 - 2. "Is there anything I can say to help it along?"
 - 3. Anyone can do this!
 - 4. IN PRACTICE:
 - a. Get a person in mind
 - i. What is a prominent strength this person possesses?
 - ii. What is the most concerning thing you see in this person's life?
 - b. Imagine the future ...
 - i. Imagine this person squandered that strength
 - ii. Imagine the problem area were to run rampant over the next 10 years
 - iii. Imagine this person put everything they had into the area of strength
 - iv. Imagine this person saw substantial change in the area of concern
 - c. What does God say about it?
 - i. Is God at work in these areas of their life?

- ii. Can you identify any possible false beliefs that the person may be believing about these areas?
 - iii. Can you think of any scripture that speaks to these false beliefs?
 - iv. Can you think of any specific steps this person could take?
 - v. God, should I speak the truth in love?
- 5. What if we all did this?
 - a. This is what “good shepherds” do
 - b. This could be an area of explosive growth in your own spiritual life!