

## Do We Love to Tell the Whole Truth?

**Ephesians 4:15 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

Greetings my fellow disciples and patriots. This is Perry Greene with GodNAmerica. Thank you for listening in to our devotional thoughts today. Today I feel like I need to really challenge us in our comfort zones.

We hear a lot today about being “loving,” and loving people with whom we disagree. What does that mean? My interpretation of that is to let people have their way regardless of right or wrong. When our daughter was young, she would often threaten us with “not being happy” if we didn’t give into her way. But you know that you can’t always give children what they want – even if they “won’t be happy.” Children don’t always know what’s best. Neither do adults for that matter. **Jeremiah 10:23 (ESV)** reads:

**I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.**

We are also hearing today that if we do not give people their way by endorsing certain biblically immoral issues, we are unloving. “Christians of all people ought to love everybody.” There is truth in that. After all, Jesus said this was a key characteristic of His disciples in **John 13:35 (ESV)**.

**<sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**

So some will ask, “Why shouldn’t people of the same gender be approved and encouraged for marrying if they love one another?”

The truth is, we do not have the right or luxury to accept or endorse what God condemns. There comes a time when we have to speak truthfully in love (**Ephesians 4:15**). It is not loving to go along with people just to get along. It is not loving if we do not warn them of the dangers to their souls. It takes speaking truthfully in spite of the consequences of not “making them happy” to show real love to people.

The apostle Paul lists the works of the flesh in **Galatians 5**. He then states in **verse 21 (ESV)**:

**I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Was Paul being loving or not? He might not be accepted by modern Christians. You see, if he were here today he would make harsh “tweets” that don’t sound very loving. But that is far from true. Paul’s warnings were out of love for the people to whom he wrote and to those of us who read his words today. He asks in **Galatians 4:16 (ESV)**:

**Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?**

Even Plato knew it as well:

**“No one is more hated than he who speaks the truth.”**

**Benjamin Franklin** said:

**"Freedom of speech is the great bulwark of liberty; they prosper and die together: And it is the terror of traitors and oppressors, and a barrier against them. It produces excellent writers, and encourages men of fine genius."**

We need the God-given freedom of speech to lovingly tell the truths of God to people.

The wise man stated in **Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)**:

**<sup>21</sup>Death and life are in the power of the tongue, . . .**

We need to lovingly speak truth in hopes that people will learn and live. Or, we can be fearful and silent to let them flounder and die. We can lovingly speak the words of God or we can be harsh, critical and condemning. What we say or don't say; what we do or don't do WILL impact the lives, even the eternal lives, of those around us.

Yes, the consequences may be hard. It is something we must prepare for. But the words of God must not be compromised – either in spirit or in truth.

Until next time, Keep The Light Burning!