

94.1 Silenced Truth

Today we hear new terms of “*Disinformation*,” “*Misinformation*,” and a new one I just heard, “*malinformation*.” Fact-checkers have shut down our free speech when they deem our social media posts fall into those categories. Opponents of truth control the narrative today and gleefully shut down those who speak honestly. Thankfully we have an alternative source of news and expression.

People have opposed the truth for centuries. Jesus faced numerous such opponents because He dared to speak the truth about God. The apostle Paul likewise stood for truth when his adversaries challenged him. In **Galatians 4:16** (NKJV), he asked:

Have I, therefore, become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

None of us enjoys being wrong and having someone correct us with the facts. Too often, we have the attitude, “*Don’t confuse me with the facts; I have made up my mind*,” so we would rather live in denial of the truth than face it. Learning the truth, however, leads us to become better people. **Ecclesiastes 7:5** (NKJV) reads:

***it is better to hear the rebuke of the wise
Than for a man to hear the song of fools.***

Christians sometimes shy away from sharing the truth because we don’t want to make people uncomfortable with reality and let them live in the proverbial “*twilight zone*” instead. Jesus tells us to love, do good to, and pray for our enemies in **Matthew 5:45-48**. Most Christians today are surprised that the world has animosity toward them and resist the idea of having enemies at all. As a result, they and their churches are silent when it comes to telling the truth about God and our ungodly contemporary culture, thus neutering the message of Christ.

Many people are unaware of our impending judgment. **2 Corinthians 5:10** reveals that we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to account for our actions. Jesus gave us the mission of sharing the gospel to help people prepare for that inevitable day.

As we teach the gospel, we help people identify the critical aspects of their lives and the world in which we live. God requires repentance, but if people don’t know His standards, how can they learn to repent? Silence is not love. Silence is the heartless condemnation, for it is only by understanding and acting on the truth of God that we can be free from bondage and deception.

Jesus had many enemies, including his unbelieving brothers, before His resurrection. If we follow Jesus, and Jesus had enemies, why are we surprised that we will, too (see **John 15:18-19**)? He warns us of this in **Matthew 10:34-38** (NKJV):

⁴“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; ³⁶and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ ³⁷He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

The “sword” Jesus speaks of is the “*sword of the Spirit*,” the word of God (**Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12**). When we speak His words, people are either cut to the heart or cut off through offense. When we silence the truth, we open the door for people to believe lies.

Our “*powers that be*” have lied to us for decades, and we are now coming to grips with the realities of their deceptions. They lied about COVID, masks, the shots, Donald Trump’s “Russian Collusion,” the Bio labs

in Ukraine, and almost everything else. You know they are lying because their lips are moving! Jesus confronted some of His day's Jewish leaders and addressed their lack of authenticity. There is an application of what He stated in **John 8:44** (NKJV) for us:

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

It is high time we tell the truth. People hunger for and are refreshed by it, yet truth sometimes offends. Jesus spoke the truth, and various religious leaders didn't appreciate it. **Matthew 15:12** (NKJV):

¹² Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

John Quincy Adams made a perceptive observation about a truthful sermon he heard. It is rare and refreshing to hear a Minister speak the truth today, and apparently, this was the case for the people of Adams' day. He made a diary entry about such an occasion.

I attended a public worship in the hall of the House of Representatives, where Mr. Tustin, the Chaplain of the Senate, preached from Daniel 5:27: "Tekel, thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." This is a formidable text for a preacher to manage, and especially for a Chaplain to a House of Congress. It is in itself the key to a discourse of keen and searching reproof for the auditory [the audience]. It is the solemn duty of a Christian clergyman to administer reproof to his hearers, and it is the duty of the hearers to listen to reproof without taking offense. This is the great practical obstacle to the faithful and useful discharge of the preacher's duty. If he probes the sinner to the soul, he kindles hatred against himself and loses his hold upon the conscience. If he forbears, he neglects his holiest duty and betrays the cause of his Master. . . . Mr. Tustin told us all that we had been weighed in the balances and found wanting.

In those days, congressmen, senators, presidents, and hundreds from the community filled the churches that met in the Capitol. How bold Mr. Tustin was in proclaiming a truthful message! Today, most preachers and churches are found wanting. We don't want to offend, so we silence the truth and fail to wake people to the realities of this world and the next.

The duty to declare the message of truth is not a license to meanness. It expresses genuine love and concern, as Paul details in **Ephesians 4:15** when he tells us to "*speak the truth in love.*" We speak God's truth with fear and trembling, not in the delight of catching some in wrongdoing.

How will the lost be saved if we don't speak and live out the truth? Paul asked in **Romans 10:14** (NKJV):

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

It can be uncomfortable, but Jesus did not call us to comfort and convenience; he called us to the mission of sharing the gospel. Silence is not love or truth. So we speak.

Keep The Light of Properly Speaking the Truth Burning!