

*Expressions
of Good
Pt. 6*

*In A Tov
Church,
People Value
Truth Telling!*

Jethro Gave Moses Some Good Advice.

Exodus 18:21 (NLT2)

*But select from all the people some capable,
honest men who fear God and hate bribes.
Appoint them as leaders over groups of one
thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten.*

NIV, ESV - “...*trustworthy men*...”

KJV – “...*men of truth*...”

Last Week I Spoke About Jesus As...

- “The way, the truth and the life”
- “The truth” in whom we worship.
- “The truth” that will set us free.

Truth Is Used In A Variety Of Contexts.

- Jesus is “the truth.”
- “Truth” is a body of knowledge that is believed or rejected.
 - “Truth” is honesty, the opposite of a lie.

1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NIV)

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (NIV)

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

As Jesus Followers, Truth Must Be Part Of Our DNA.

- God is truth.
- Jesus is truth.
- Our faith is the truth.
- We are to walk in the truth.

Anything that is not true or that undermines truth is not of God, and has no place among a people who value truth. We must not engage in deceit or spin of any kind. These things are not of God and are toxic.

It Begins With Knowing “The Truth.”

- The New Testament, and thus, Christianity ,claims that “truth” is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- How Jesus taught, lived and loved are the measures of truth.

We Have Come To Know The Truth By “The Spirit Of Truth.”

- Jesus told his disciples that, when he departed, “the Spirit of truth” would come and “*testify about me*” and “*guide them into all truth.*” - John 15:26; 16:13.
- *And Jesus Christ was revealed as God’s Son by his baptism in water and by shedding his blood on the cross—not by water only, but by water and blood. And the Spirit, who is truth, confirms it with his testimony.* 1 John 5:6 (NLT2)

We Encounter The
Testimony Of The Spirit
Through The Spirit Guided Gospel Writers And
Other New Testament Writers
Who Tell Us What Jesus Taught,
How He Lived and How He Loved.

We Must Also Be Doing The Truth

- As Jesus lives in us, by his Spirit, Truth becomes our way of life, the way of love.
- Remember 1 Corinthians 13:6, “*Love...rejoices with the truth.*”
- One of the ways Paul commended his way of life to the Corinthians was “*in truthful speech.*” 2 Cor. 6:4.
- Paul says we “*must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to (our) neighbor,*” Ephesians 4:25.

Disciples Tell And Live The Truth.

- When those who make up a family of believers tell the truth and live the truth, a culture emerges that constitutes a church of Tov (goodness).
- This requires a humility, a transparency and a vulnerability that is willing to do the hard thing of being held accountable to *“The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”* John 1:9 (NLT2)

A Life Of Accountability To Truth Telling And
Truth Living Involves Confession.

James 5:16 (NLT2)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

This Is Spiritually Healthy Only In A Same Gender Relationship That Is Both Mutual And Trusting.

Confessional Relationships Can Bring About Eternal Blessings.

James 5:19-20 (NLT2)

My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

Living In The Light Of God

1 John 1:5- 7 (NLT2)

This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

The Text Calls Us To Embrace Both The Ideal And The Reality.

- The Ideal: the message we heard from Jesus – *“God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.”*
- We can have fellowship with God *“If we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus ,his son, cleanses us from all sin.*
- What does it mean to be, *“living in the light, as God is in the light”*? The possibility of doing this depends on what that phrase means.

“Living in the light, as God is in the light.”

- The opposite of living in spiritual darkness.
- Neither is it living without sin, as Jesus did.
- Light both illuminates and makes cleansing possible.
- We are living in the light, **NOT** according to the light.
- To live *in the light*, suggests a responsiveness, an honesty, and a willingness to live confessionally before God, as the rest of the passage explains.
- The blood of Jesus can then cleanse the illuminated sin.

Living In Denial Of Sin Is A Serious Matter.

1 John 1:8-10 (NLT2)

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

Avoiding The Light Is Its Own Confession

John 3:20-21 (NLT2)

“All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.

But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

Ephesians 5:6-9 (NLT2)

Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do.

For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

Alcoholics Anonymous Calls This “The 5th Step.”

“We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

This exercise begins to provide emotional, mental,
and spiritual relief.

By sharing wrongs with a trusted confidant, guilt
and shame start to melt away.

Our Assignment: Start Applying James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10.

Pray Psalm 51 daily and make it your own.
Allow the light of God to reveal any sin.
Confess it. Ask for forgiveness.
Ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome it.

"Create in me a clean heart oh God;
Let me be like you in all my ways.
Give me your strength; teach me your song;
Shelter me in the shadow of your wings.
For, we are your righteousness.
If we die to ourselves and live through your
death,
Then, we shall be born again to be blessed in
your love!"