

Standing Up for the Truth

Introduction

Philippians 1:7,17

1. **One of the basic attributes that distinguishes the Christian is his commitment to the truth**

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

2. **Making a real commitment to truth in every one of our relationships is a test of our integrity.**
3. **It is very important that we always stand up for what we know to be true.**

It Takes Courage to Follow a Commitment to Truth

1. **Lying, in any form, must be “put away” from our lives.**

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "LET EACH ONE OF YOU SPEAK TRUTH WITH HIS NEIGHBOR," for we are members of one another.

2. **We as Christians realize that Jesus is “the Faithful and True witness.”**

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

3. Therefore, like our Lord, we must always bear a faithful testimony to that which is truth.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

4. It is important that we also remember this fact: That there is a price to be paid for telling the truth, especially the truth about God

Revelation 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

A. Sometimes, silence is not golden, it is just plain “yellow.”

B. It is just as wrong to remain silent about truth that should be told as it is to tell a lie.

Psalms 78:5-7 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, **That they should make them known to their children;** **(6)** That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, **(7)** That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;

5. Only the individuals who have had the courage to stand up and speak out for the truth will be saved.

Revelation 20:4

Revelation 21:8

It Is Cowardly and Sinful to Remain Silent – When the Truth Is Being Misrepresented

- 1. When we are in the midst of a group and the truth is being made to suffer, it is wrong to simply go along with the “false witness” of the crowd (even by our silence) when we know what the truth is.**

Exodus 23:1-2 "You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. **(2)** You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

- 2. In most cases, when one chooses to remain passively silent about the truth – it has the same evil effect as actively bearing false witness against the truth.**

- A. To be the friend of truth often means having the courage to speak up for the truth.**

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

- B. Peter’s cowardice illustrates the evil of silence when the truth is being misrepresented**
Luke 22:54-62
John 18:15-18

- 3. Do we have the courage and the integrity to defend an absent party who is being misrepresented?**

- A. What about when the Lord happens to be the “absent party”?**

We Should Defend Those We Know Are Being Treated Unjustly

- 1. Honor demands that we actively defend those who are suffering dishonest and unfair treatment.**

Proverbs 31:8-9 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. **(9)** Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy.

- A. If we had been one of Joseph's brothers, would we have gone along with Judah's evil plan?**

Genesis 37:23-28

- B Paul knew what it was like to have "friends" who remain silent rather than speak up for the truth**

2 Timothy 4:16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

- 2. To "stand on the other side" amounts to the same thing as inflicting injury ourselves**

Obadiah 11 In the day that you stood on the other side-- In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem-- **Even you were as one of them.**

Proverbs 14:25 **A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies.**

Confessing Christ Means to Acknowledge – What We Know to Be True

- 1. The consequences of either “confessing” or “denying” Christ are eternal!**

Matthew 10:32-33

- 2. We must confess the truth in every situation that confronts us, not just when it is “safe” to do so.**

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; **(43) for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

- 3. We are not to make the “good confession” just once, but continue to make it daily.**

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- 4. Courageously acknowledging truth, in word and deed, must be our way of life.**

We Should Never to Be Ashamed of the Lord or the Gospel

1. **The gospel of Christ is not something to be ashamed of.**
Romans 1:16-17
2. **There is more integrity in the enemies of the gospel who vigorously attack it than in the “friends” of the truth who do not care enough about it to defend it**

Revelation 3:15-16 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. **(16)** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

3. **The truth needs courageous, committed Christians who are willing to speak up – no matter what!**

Ephesians 6:19-20 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, **(20)** for which I am an ambassador in chains; **that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

Conclusion

1. **We are given this commandment:**

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

2. **While the truth must certainly be spoken “in love” (Ephesians. 4:15), it nevertheless must be **spoken** — and it must be **acted upon!****
3. **The person will be saved who **“does the truth.”****

John 3:21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, **that his deeds may be clearly seen,** that they have been done in God."

