

TRUTH

Ephesians 4:25

TODAY'S VERSE:

Ephesians 4:25 *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.*

THREE STORIES:

- ▶ Abraham & Sarah: Genesis 12:1-20, 20:1-7
- ▶ Reuben: Genesis 37:19-34
- ▶ Ananias & Sapphira: Acts 5:1-11

WHY DID THEY (O.K., we) LIE?

Psalm 5:4, Psalm 101:5, Proverbs 19:9

To avoid **pain** ?

Fear **rejection** ?

Social **pressure** ?

To **impress** ?

*In all of these we are putting faith in our **lies**,
not in **God**.*

BEFORE YOU BUTT IN,

Proverbs 12:17, Proverbs 12:20, Proverbs 27:6, Zechariah 8:16, Matthew 23:1-4

ASK: What is my **motive** ?

Will I be **heard** ?

Is it my **responsibility** ?

Am I willing to **help** ?

TAKING IT HOME

1. When you think about *speaking the truth in love* to others, where would you place yourself on the scale below (1 being 'the truth, the whole truth & nothing but the truth' & 10 being 'feelings, nothing more than feelings')?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

As you think about the message and homework for this week, how do you think you might need to either strengthen or soften the way you speak the truth in love to others?

2. Sometimes we can miss the mark when it comes to speaking the truth to others by going too far with our words or not far enough. Are there any relationships (friends, family members, co-workers, etc.) where you have missed the mark when it comes to speaking the truth? What is something you can do to help 'mend the fence' in that relationship?

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To avoid _____?

Fear _____?

Social _____?

To _____?

*In all of these we are putting faith in our _____,
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ASK: What is my _____?

Will I be _____?

Is it my _____?

Am I willing to _____?

Monday Night Solutions

Beginning May 2, 7:15 PM High School room \$5/person, per night at the door

Are you looking for relationship improvements, attitude adjustments, or how to better handle everyday life? Then come check out Monday Night Solutions. Our next DVD series will be "Language of Love" with Drs. Cloud & Townsend.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 24, 2005

QUICK REVIEW

What was something from Chris' message this weekend that you found to be helpful, interesting or challenging? Don't be afraid to speak truthfully about this!

MY STORY

1. Describe a time in your life when someone spoke the truth to you about an issue you were facing. Was it a positive experience? Would you have wanted them to do things differently? If so, what would you have wanted them to do differently?
2. What are some of the challenges that come with speaking the truth to other people?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. One of the greatest risks we can take is to speak truthfully to others. Read the following passages that deal with people willing to take this risk and answer the questions that follow.

2 Samuel 12:1-14 - The Prophet Nathan speaks to King David.
What was the risk that Nathan took in speaking truthfully to David?

What might have happened had he not been willing to take this risk?

Galatians 2:11-21 – Paul speaks to Peter.
What was the risk that Paul took in speaking truthfully to Peter?

What might have happened had he not been willing to take this risk?

2. Chris pointed out that the reason we need to speak truthfully to each other is that Paul writes we are all members of one body (Ephesians 4:25). What are some reasons that speaking the truth to each other is an important part of maintaining healthy relationships?
3. How we go about speaking the truth to each other is just as important as being willing to speak the truth to each other. What do the following verses tell us about this idea?

Proverbs 12:18

Proverbs 27:6

Ephesians 4:15