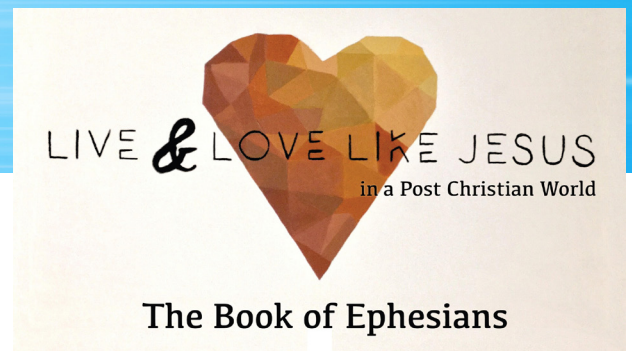


Discussion Questions

January 22, 2023

Ephesians 4:14-16 Truthing in Love



1. Read Ephesians 4:13-16

In verses 13 & 15, Paul describes the need for the body of Christ to become more like Jesus.

- What language does he use to describe that in both passages?

- What does that look like for us today as a body to actually see that realized?

2. Read Ephesians 4:15

James explained that in the original language it is not only saying "speaking" but Paul says the church must be "Truthing in Love," which includes speaking and demonstrating or incarnating truth in love. Discuss the significance of "truthing in love" and the potential danger of merely "speaking truth in love."

3. Read Ephesians 4:16 again, it gives the picture of the church as a body, with each part working together. Discuss what this looks like today when this is being done the way Paul envisions it?

- What kind of changes need to happen in our own lives to make that kind of reality possible?

4. James used a quote by Dr Klyne Snodgrass in his commentary on Ephesians that said,

Application of this passage requires nothing less than a reformation of Christianity. We have strayed from the gospel as surely as if we had sold indulgences. Our individualism, [church] hierarchies, and lack of integrity do not match the calling with which we were called. We have lost our sense of the body of Christ. Be good stewards of his grace and fulfill your role in his body. Live the truth in love. It is not beyond you, for it is enabled by being attached to Christ.

- Discuss this quote. In what ways do you think the church at large has "lost the plot," strayed from the gospel, or requires a reformation?

- What is our role as members of the body to be part of seeing this kind of "reformation" in the body of Christ?



Ephesians 4:14-16 (NLT) Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephesians 4:12-13 (NLT)

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Galatians 4:19 (NLT)

Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.

Ephesians 4:14

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

Hebrews 5:12

You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

Ephesians 4:15

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

John 1:17 (NIV)

For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT)

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

John Calvin - Commentary on Ephesians 1548

That man is mistaken who desires his own separate spiritual growth. For what would it profit a leg or an arm if it grew to an enormous size?"

Dr Klyne Snodgrass - NIV Application Commentary

The metaphor "walk" suggests something controlled, enduring, and directed, not something frenetic or aimless. Short term effort is of no value; we need a lifetime of faithfulness mirroring God's call. None of this suggests we accomplish anything by ourselves, but life with God and by his help is a life of discipline and effort.

We want discipleship without discipline; it does not exist. We seek what we can get by with, but the challenge is to do what we should, to live worthy of the call. Our problem is that we have a million dollar salvation and a five-cent response. We seem unimpressed with God's salvation. We protest that no one can actually live worthy of this calling and express our fears of perfectionism. The text is anxious about neither; its concern is only that our lives are shaped by God's salvation.

Right theology should lead to right conduct. Why is the process so frequently aborted? Is it because theology is threaded through the brain but never gets to the heart? Such belief is useless. Is our knowledge only a source of pride? Our understanding of our call must be sincere and honest, going to the depths of our being. Then by a determined act of our wills and by the help of God's Spirit, our lives must be drawn into line with this call. We are called to receive and show grace.

Application of this passage requires nothing less than a reformation of Christianity. We have strayed from the gospel as surely as if we had sold indulgences. Our individualism, [church] hierarchies, and lack of integrity do not match the calling with which we were called. We have lost our sense of the body of Christ. Be good stewards of his grace and fulfill your role in his body. Live the truth in love. It is not beyond you, for it is enabled by being attached to Christ.