

Empty Teaching

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We see here that Paul is telling his readers what the Lords intent is for the leaders to teach and the result of the proper teaching in “the Body” weather local church or the Church at large. My text verse today is 15 ...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

We can see up in vs. 11 Paul is showing us the Jesus’ intent in giving ministers to the church was to equip or prepare God’s people (all Christ followers) for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Tomorrow, Emily will be 21years old; she is sweating “how old she is”. Ha! A few years ago Pierre in what I am sure was teasing way would say I’m twenteen, indication a reluctance to leave behind his teen years and enter his twenties. Yet kidding aside I have never really come across an individual who did not wish to Mature-ripen or advance in life.

We would all agree though that aging alone is not all there is to maturing, ripening. In our spiritual life this remains true as well. “Attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” That is we are to mature in the fullness of Christ. The one who Paul tells us in the opening word of his next chapter to imitate “they say imitation is the greatest form of flattery. For this, one must go way beyond learning the words he spoke; we must learn the heart from which he spoke.

For many years I conducted “D” recovery groups, some ranging from ten to a hundred people in attendance. I would often begin the conference with a question from the passage from Malachi, have you heard God hates divorce? Heads often drop to their chest, then I would ask a follow up question; “do you know why”?

Answer: Because divorce hurts people, and God loves people. God expressed his irrevocable love to you in yesteryears by sending His one and only son, and now you are going through a divorce, he has not changed his mind about you, he still loves you but he hates what you will now have to experience. Again I would ask show by of hands how many of you have started to experience aching of the joints and deep pain in the abdomen seen in Psalm. The scriptures speak of aching of the joints and pain in the belly if we don’t properly dispose of our anger, hatred and sorrow. So now the message is not that God hates those who have experienced divorce, but rather God love you and does not wish this upon you. I don’t know anyone who has gone through a divorce that would wish it on their worst enemy and who would not like knowing that someone especially the God of the all still loves them. That’s good news folks. Biblical Teaching that does not include the Love of God is empty of its power.

When God rebuked Cain: the message of unacceptable behavior was delivered Gen. 4:4 The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. What do you see in this vs.? do you see the love of God only for Able, favoritism by God? Let’s read on!

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If

you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." In love God speaks to Cain, you do not have to experience this feeling of downcast, depression anger! That's the truth, that's the love of it, you don't have to allow sin to alienate us!

"speaking the truth in love" 15. In the whole truth find the love. When hard news or rebuke needs to be brought, it should be done with tenderness and sensitivity. Sandwiching is a good method! "If you do right- won't it go well for you too? If not sin is at your door-don't open that door, it desires you. God is telling you he desires you, and sin desires you. Which one do you want to have you, which one will bring you the greatest satisfaction? With sin you carry a heavy burden and are overwhelmed with guilt and shame. With God- he has removed your burden he has provided for your guilt and taken your shame- "but you must rule over it". Is this a mean statement from a God who does not care "you must rule over sin", or could it be a loving statement from a God who does not wish for you to go down the road of a murder of your brother?

V.13 says that the goal of building up the body of Christ is to attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. So the building begins with equippers v. 11 who are all agents of truth, and the aim of the building is unified knowledge, that is, unified grasp of truth.

Next, we see v. 14 shows Paul's great concern: As we grow into corporate Christlikeness, we are not to be babes who are blown around by every wind of doctrine. The issue is stability in true doctrine, so that we will not be deceived by false doctrine. God is Love, but God hate divorcees, murders thief's etc.... Don't be blown around like a baby in a breeze, God loves people his creation, God hates sin-sinners creation and the consequences it brings.

Thus, our call to speak the truth in love to one another is gospel-good news oriented. If you find away now to put aside your bitterness you will spare yourself many sorrows. So I would warn one by way of the scriptures if you continue to harbor bitterness, in your heart toward another you will bring many sorrows down on yourself. Jesus at the cross said "Father forgive them" Cori Tem Boom forgave those who killed her family, many examples. If the teaching is merely half-truth even of the bible without seeking the love of God and the desire of building up one another it is empty.

The believer's goal for the body of Christ is plainly stated in Eph 4:13: "[That] we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

(I Peter 3:15-16) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

God does not wish for any to perish! Word!!! God at every pronouncement of consequences announces the promise of redemption for those who will follow his loving call. Speak the Truth all the truth in Love-that's good news!

Hear me: God does not hate the sinner-for all have sinned –it was while in our sin He

sent His son.

Don't be the judge of humanity- be the messenger to humanity- For God so loved that he gave. Let us speak the truth in Love!

He did not come to make us follow "the rules" he came so we would follow his love!

Do you think one sinner is worse than another? It is not the grossness of the sin, nor the numerous amount of sin, that will determine your eternal destination, but the sincerity and completeness of your repentance.

Luke 13: Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

God is faithful to forgive, a repentant heart!