

Title: Speaking the truth in love
Pastor: Fred May
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Ephesians 4:13-15 (NIV)

¹³until 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. ¹⁴Then we will **no longer be infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will **grow to become** in every respect the **mature** body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

1. Emulate 'gentle Jesus'

- exercise extra wisdom, discernment, patience & longsuffering around 'difficult' people.

2 Timothy 2:23-25 (NASB)

"But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth".

- almost anyone can be appeased

Proverbs 25:15 (NLT)

"Patience can persuade a prince, and soft speech can break bones".

2. Be deliberate and gratuitous with your grace and patience - focus on the person and off issues

- we must be known for our gentleness

Philippians 4:5 (NIV)

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near".

3. Vacate the judgment seat to GOD

- only HE possesses perfect knowledge. Only HE may judge and pronounce perfect 'truth'.

1 Corinthians 13:9,10 (NLT)

"Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless".

- humans are, at best, only capable of honesty. We only have perspectives on and perceptions of and convictions around things.

Romans 3:4 (NIRV)

"... God is true, even though every human being is a liar. It is written, "You are right when you sentence me. You are fair when you judge me."

4. Set boundaries for humility and respect

- "in my view/in my modest opinion/ I respect your point of view" etc/ I may be wrong, or not entirely right
- Christ-like confidence calls for humility & a desire for engagement and conversation