

Building Great Relationships
Truth: A Love Language For All

I. Introduction

- Speaking the truth in love to one another is a must if we want strong, healthy relationships.
- Speaking the tough truth to one another is a difference-maker in great relationships.

II. Truth In Love

A. How do we get better at speaking the truth in love to one another?

1. It starts with recognizing that truth and love have their origin in God's nature and that He wants our speech to incorporate both virtues.

Numbers 23:19 (NLT) *God is not a man, that he should lie. He is not a human, that he should change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?*

"God is love" and "love rejoices with the truth."

Zechariah 8:16 (NIV) *These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts.*

Psalms 15:1-2 (NIV) *¹LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? ²He... who speaks the truth from his heart.*

Ephesians 4:15a (NIV) *Speaking the truth in love.*

2. So how do I know if I'm speaking in love?

a. A good starting point is to ask yourself these two questions:

- 1) For whose benefit am I about to share this truth - theirs or mine?
- 2) Am I listening to what the other person is saying or do I just want to talk?

James 1:19 (NIV) *My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*

III. Tough Truth

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NIV) ⁵*Better is open rebuke than hidden love.* ⁶*Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

- A. The compromising issue at hand in this event is adultery and murder.
 - 1. Round One
2 Samuel 12:1b-5 (NIV)
 - 2. Round Two
2 Samuel 12:5b-13a (NIV)
- B. Speaking tough truth to one another is a difference-maker in great relationships.
 - 1. A few insights from this encounter that will help us speak tough truth:
 - a. When there is positive history together
 - b. It needs to be initiated by God
2 Samuel 12:1 (NIV) *The LORD sent Nathan to David.*
 - c. The conversation has been thought through ahead of time.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Tough and loving truth succeeds when grace and hope are extended.
2 Samuel 12:13 (NIV)
Psalm 32:3-5 (NIV)