

**Be Diligent to Preserve the Unity of the Spirit:  
Speak the Truth in Love**

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Ephesians 4  
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**Summary:** Having instructed the church regarding their power and riches in Christ, the apostle Paul directs them to the corresponding lifestyle. We are to work towards unity and maturity among God's people. Speaking the truth in love is not speaking truth without love, nor is it love without correction. The key is to build up one another in the obedience of faith, with courageous love that is both constructive and compassionate.

1. A. What is the exhortation that Paul gives in Ephesians 4:1?
  
- B. In what fashion does Paul expect us to carry this out?  
Ephesians 4:2-3
  
- C. How do you approach others who have weaknesses and make mistakes? Do you humbly recognize that you have your own? Does your gentleness, patience and long fuse with others advance the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?  
Psalm 103:8-14, John 17:11-21, Ephesians 5:1-2
  
2. A. To what extent are we to pursue the unity of the faith?  
Ephesians 4:13
  
- B. What will this look like?  
Ephesians 4:14-15
  
- C. "**Speaking the truth in love**" is a participle used as an imperative, which means it is a command. The truth of the Scriptures is not negotiable. So when trickery and deceitful scheming arises, so that correction becomes necessary, who is really causing the conflict? Sometimes good teachers are accused of being unloving. Why?
  
3. A. What was one of Paul's greatest concerns as expressed in I Timothy 1:3-5?
  
- B. How does Paul encourage Timothy to carry out this God-given goal?  
II Timothy 1:6-9, 13-14; 2:1-7, 14-15, 19-26; 3:14-17; 4:1-5
  
- C. How learned and convinced are you regarding the fundamental teachings of our faith? Are you equipped in the knowledge of Christ in order to identify falsehood? Do you have the wisdom and courage to confront it with gentleness and reverence?  
Acts 17:2-3, I Peter 3:15
  
4. A. In the family of God there are conflicts not related to false teaching and deceitful scheming, just basic selfishness, pride and succumbing to the flesh. How does Paul say to address those?  
Ephesians 4:31-32

B. What does “**speaking the truth in love**” look like in this case?

Ephesians 4:12, 4:15-16, 4:29

C. What are some practical ways we can build up others in the love of Christ?

Proverbs 3:3-7, 12:18, 13:15, 15:1, 25:11, 27:5-6, 29:25; II Corinthians 8:1-5,  
I Thessalonians 5:12-18