



## COVENANT CHURCH

Essentials – Speak the Truth in Love

Pastor Ricky Texada

Sunday July 19, 2020

**Main Idea** – Christians speak and live the truth through God’s love. Truth is Jesus; it is not a concept, philosophy, or viewpoint. Anything that is inconsistent with who Jesus is - or what He said - is a lie.

### **Without God there are lies**

- Society, without God, is full of lies.
- You will encounter lies on a personal level, and also as a recipient of larger societal thinking.
- Lies lead to a lack of trust. Lies come partly from fear and shame.
- Ultimately, all lies originated with Satan.
- In society in general, truth is no longer recognizable because society has made the decision to seek truth independent from God.
- **Proverbs 12:22 – The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth. (NLT)**
- **Psalm 89:14 – Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face. (NKJV)**
- **John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” (NKJV)**
- “When truth becomes relative and not absolute, then we lose our ability to value it, speak it and receive it.”

### **Truth is exclusive**

- There is only one source of ultimate truth: Jesus.
- Truth is exclusive to Jesus. Don’t develop your understanding of the world through a lense that is not eternal (race, political ideology, social class, sexual preference, etc.)
- Build your worldview on what God says is truth. **Matthew 7:24-27 – “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on**

**sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” (NLT)**

- **“If we are going to really speak the truth in love, a truth that will stand the test of eternity, we must have a proper worldview.”**

### **Jesus had a worldview**

- **Jesus had a worldview. Essentially, it could be summarized as, “I’m not saying or doing anything until I hear from the Father. Then, I will do or say that thing.”**
- **John 5:19 – So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. (NLT)**
- **John 12: 49-50 – “I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.” (NLT)**
- **Your worldview should be shaped by the Word of God under the direction and authority of the Holy Spirit. If you do that, your worldview will be a Kingdom perspective. John 18: 33-37 – Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. “Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him. Jesus replied, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?” “Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.” Pilate said, “So you are a king?” Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.” (NLT)**

### **Know Jesus, know truth**

- **Truth is not a philosophy or a concept. Rather, truth is a person: Jesus. John 14:6 – Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” (NLT)**
- **Jesus makes truth personal. “In Christianity alone, truth is a person who is inviting every other person into a love relationship.” Ravi Zacharias**
- **As a Christian, Jesus’ Word should shape everything about how you interact with your environment.**
- **Freedom will be the automatic result of embracing Jesus, and His Word, as truth. John 8: 31-32 – Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my**

disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (NLT)

### **The church teaches the truth through love**

- The church’s reason for being is to show the world truth, and then to reconcile with God those who are looking for truth. **Ephesians 4: 11-15 – And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ (NKJV)**
- Individual Christians, as members of a church body, should be growing individually as well as corporately with the entire congregation.
- Individual and corporate growth happens through small groups. Surround yourself with those who care about you, and who are growing alongside you.
- “Truth spoken without love can be reckless and abusive – love spoken without truth can be sentimental and anemic.”
- **Galatians 6:1 – Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (NKJV)**
- **James 1: 19-20 – So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (NKJV)**
- The local church can be a change agent in society because it is inclusive of many different kinds of people who know how to relate to the world through God’s truth and love.

### **Reflective Questions for Essentials – Speak the Truth in Love**

1. In this sermon message Pastor Ricky revealed a stunning fact that truth is a person: Jesus. Are you able to get your arms around that? How does knowing that truth is Jesus – instead of an obscure concept - help make the events of life easier to deal with?

2. The local church is made up of many people who may have different, temporary individual opinions and perspectives but who know only one truth. How do these individual people access and know truth? (Use the Bible verses in this lesson to answer that question.)