



Scriptures for further study

Colossians 3:9, 10 | 1 John 2:27 | Ephesians 5:30 | 1 Corinthians 12:12 | Romans 12:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this sermon, Dr. Corts emphasizes three realities, according to the Apostle Paul, that believers need to accept and live by when it comes to their relationships. The first reality is that deceit is dangerous (Eph. 4:25). According to the Scriptures, God hates lying (Proverbs 6:16-17; 12:19; 12:22; 20:17; 21:6) and Satan is a liar (John 8:44). Why do you think people lie? Why is it so hard for you to tell the truth? Why is it so easy to deceive?
2. Humans are masters at falsehoods. We exaggerate, embellish adding falsehood to what is true, tell half-truths as whole truths, lead others to believe one thing when we know another is true, make promises we can't keep, betray confidences, flatter and make excuses. Why do people manipulate others? Why does habitual lying destroy relationships?
3. In verse 25, Paul encourages his readers to replace lying with speaking the truth. He emphasizes truth speaking in verses 15, 21 and 24. Habitual truth-speaking is always life giving when motivated by love and is an absolute priority in all relationships. In your circle of relationships, who is the most honest (truth speaking) person you know? Give an example of why you chose this person?
4. The second reality Paul says believers need to accept and live by is that honesty is a necessity (verse 25b). "...let each of you [individually] speak truth with his neighbor..." But what precisely does Paul mean here by speaking truth? What kind of truth speaking is Paul calling for? What does "speaking the truth in love" look like?
5. The third and final reality that Paul says believers need to accept and live by is that integrity is a matter of urgency (verse 25c). Paul ends this verse by giving us motivation for putting off deceit and speaking truth. He says, "... for we are members one of another." In your own words, what does it mean to be members of one another? Do members always have to agree with one another? What does it mean to be unified? How is unity on display in the body of Christ? What does trust have to do with habitual truth-speaking and unity in the body of Christ?
6. After working through these questions, summarize why habitual truthfulness is such a high, divine priority? What is one area or relationship that you want to focus on this week to make honesty your only policy?