

Notes

The Way to Real Love, Freedom & Generative Influence

2026

Loving Truth—The Way to Real Love, Freedom & Generative Influence

Scripture References

1 Samuel 3:9; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; John 14:6; John 14:16–17; John 16:7–11; John 16:13–15; John 17:17; John 15:3–5; 1 John 2:6; 1 Corinthians 1:2; John 14:23–26; John 8:31–32

Introduction

- Pastor highlights a cultural crisis: people voice opinions yet seldom listen—to one another or to God.
- C. S. Lewis' insight frames the sermon: "I believe in God the same way I believe in the sun; not because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."
- Aim: cultivate a posture of listening, embrace Scripture as God-breathed truth, and allow that truth to shape love, freedom, and influence.

Key Points / Exposition

1. A Listening Posture toward God

- Eli's counsel to young Samuel (1 Sam 3:9) becomes a model: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening."
- Reject two faulty approaches to Scripture:
 - Textbook reading—performance, legalism, anxiety.
 - Novel reading—mere entertainment, emotional diversion.
- Healthy approach: hear God's voice personally; expect revelation of His love and guidance.

2. The God-Breathed Purpose of Scripture

- 2 Tim 3:16–17: Scripture is inspired, profitable for:
 - Teaching – imparting truth.
 - Reproof – loving rebuke.
 - Correction – course realignment.
 - Training in righteousness – ongoing guidance.
- Because the Bible is "God-breathed," it alone possesses life-changing power; humans merely deliver it.

3. Reading & Responding: The Source of Influence

- How we interact with truth affects personal growth, discernment, and the quality of our influence (generative or destructive).
- Generative influence: patient, Spirit-led presence that draws others to Christ without coercion.

4. Four Diagnostic Questions for Lovers of Truth

(Each links to Renewal's vision: follow Jesus, love truth, live generous lives)

- Restraint vs. Rebellion
 - Question: "To what degree is sin-restraint or sin-rebellion part of my character?"
 - John 14:6—Truth (Jesus) stands between Way and Life; avoiding truth leads to lost direction and deadened life.
- Reception & Repentance
 - Question: "How do I interact with truth about me—for me?"
 - Spirit of Truth (John 14:16–17; 16:7–11, 13–15) supplies help, guidance, and memory-healing so believers can welcome conviction and change.

- Mortification & Sanctification
 - Question: “Am I vulnerable enough for the Lord to slay my lawlessness?”
 - John 17:17; 15:3–5; 1 John 2:6—only abiding in the word separates us from sin and conforms us to Christ.
- Liberation & Deliverance into Love
 - Question: “Am I daily delivered from personal wickedness into deeper Christ-likeness?”
 - John 14:23–26—obedience to truth ushers believers into a fuller experience of the Father’s love, enabling them to love others.
 - Truth → Love → Generative Influence → True Freedom (John 8:31–32).

Major Lessons & Revelations

- Truth is not abstract; it is the Person of Jesus.
- Scripture’s reproof, correction, and training are gifts, not threats.
- The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Truth,” resident teacher and healer.
- Love is always responsive—first received from God, then released to others.
- Freedom is the by-product of abiding in truth and walking in love.

Practical Application

- Begin every Bible reading with Samuel’s prayer: “Speak, Lord; Your servant is listening.”
- Schedule regular, unhurried Scripture time—neither performance-driven nor entertainment-driven.
- Invite the Spirit to examine rebellion; note areas needing course correction.
- Answer the four diagnostic questions in journaling or accountability conversations.
- Act promptly on convictions—repent, realign, and practice new obedience.
- Express God’s love generatively: serve, speak truth gently, avoid coercion, trust God to draw people.

Conclusion & Call to Response

The future of everything is Christ. His truth illuminates the way, imparts life, and forms love that sets others free. Commit today to be a church—and a person—who loves truth, abides in Christ, and becomes a Spirit-empowered conduit of generative influence.

Prayer

“Father God, we long to be a people who love Your truth. Help us listen, receive reproof, embrace correction, and walk in the freedom and love Your word provides. Form Christ in us so others may see Him and be drawn to Him. Amen.”