

# Notes for: Speaking Truth in Love (Part 1)

## Introduction

In Matthew 15:18-20, Jesus said that what comes out of our mouth says a lot about what is in our heart. This is why our online ministry is dedicated to fulfilling Ephesians 4:15; so that as we teach the truth of God we do it with an attitude of love toward those who listen. Since 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 is the ultimate standard of reference for defining love; we can also know for certain when the truth is being spoken in love and when it is not!

## (1) How To Know When Truth Is Being Spoken In Love

- **When the speaking is marked by patience (2 Timothy 2:24)**
  - >> the contrast here is between being patient and quarrelsome
  - >> speaking the truth doesn't mean picking a fight
  
- **When the speaking is characterized by kindness (Ephesians 4:32)**
  - >> perhaps you have asked yourself this question, I know I have:
  - >> "How can someone so forgiven, be so mean?"
  
- **When the speaking is distinguished by joy (1 John 1:4)**
  - >> ultimate goal of truth spoken in love: building up others for maturity in Christ
  - >> nothing gave Paul greater joy (Philippians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:8-10)
  
- **When the speaking epitomizes hope (Romans 15:4)**
  - >> real hope in a lost world can only be experienced by means of a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:18; 2:12)
  
- **When the speaking is manifested in spiritual growth (Ephesians 4:14-16)**
  - >> the positive influence of Ephesians 4:15 will always counteract the negative influence of Ephesians 4:14 and result in Christians experiencing Ephesians 4:16

## Conclusion:

Should this not be the spiritual benchmark for how a local church functions, whether in the pulpit or in the pew? Should this not be the standard by which we determine the church in which we should attend, function and serve?