

SPEAKING THE TRUTH WITH LOVE

February 23, 2020 Ephesians 4:15 by Bob Branch
Building a Strong, Healthy Family series, part 6

BIG IDEA: Truth—especially God’s truth—spoken gently with great love, can make a transforming difference in the lives of those around us.

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity/oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Eph. 4:11-16

1. It’s SPOKEN.

“No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.”

Ephesians 4:29 CSB

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love.” **Proverbs 27:50**

2. It’s TRUTH & TRUTHFUL.

“Nick, you must be born again to see God’s kingdom.”
(see **John 3:3**)

“Martha, you’re worried and upset about many things but few things are needed—indeed, only one.” **Luke 10:41-42**

“You are right when you say you have no husband... you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband.” **John 4:17-18**

“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” **Mark 10:21**

3. It’s Jesus-style LOVING.

“A gentle answer turns away wrath.” **Proverbs 15:1**

“Gentle words are a tree of life.” **Proverbs 15:4** NLT

“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”
“No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you... Go now and leave your life of sin.” **John 8:10-11**

“Simon, do you love me?” **John 21:15**

God’s kindness leads us to repentance (see **Rom. 2:4**).

4. It HELPS US and THEM GROW.

“speaking the truth with love we will grow.” **Ephesians 4:15**