

Speaking the Truth in Love

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, we discussed the concept of "Rahab Lied and Was Blessed." We acknowledged the following ideas.

- There are many powerful verses that show God's view about lying and various consequences that can occur from lying.
- Most lying has horrible motives—generally to gain for self or to watch other people hurt.
- Rahab's lie demonstrated a good reason for lying (which is a rare exception)—lying to protect life.

We see that Rahab's lying was an act of love. In this article, we want to focus on "Speaking the Truth in Love."

Damage of lying

Notice a few verses that show the damage of lying.

Genesis 3:4-5—"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' "

Proverbs 10:18—"Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool."

Proverbs 21:6—"Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death."

Proverbs 26:28—"A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin."

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."

Notice the contrast

Notice a few verses that show the contrast between lying and truth.

Proverbs 12:17—"He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness, deceit."

Proverbs 12:19—"The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment."

Proverbs 12:22—"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."

Beauty of truth

Notice a few verses that show the beauty of truth.

Proverbs 3:3—"Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

John 8:32—"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Ephesians 4:25—"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another."

Ephesians 4:29—"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

Truth in love

Notice a few verses that show the characteristic of speaking the truth in love.

Romans 15:1—"We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

1 Corinthians 10:32-33—"Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

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."

Ephesians 4:15—"But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ."