

Balance

There is an old saying, "The truth, out of balance, always leads to heresy." In a religious context, heresy is simply blasphemy or apostasy - that which is not biblically true. Truth is truth, certainly, but the *understanding and application* of truth must be considered in light of all biblical verses on the subject. For example, God's truth makes us free, John 8:32 (free from sin). But the application of that truth to the soul must include the truth about repentance, Luke 13:3-5. Therein we learn that without repentance we will perish. Being free from sin must also include confession and baptism (see Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-4; Acts 22:16; I Peter 3:21, et al).

Here, let's consider that balance of truth and love. God's word through Paul's pen tells us to be "teaching the truth in love," Ephesians 4:15. The connection of those two things, truth and love, are incredibly important! To teach the truth *without love* would be to break the law of God. Conversely, to love without truth would do the same.

Think of "love" and "truth" on a see-saw, love on one end and truth on the other. When love outweighs truth (out of balance) we have soft, sweet relationships, but we don't have God's truth that makes us free from sin. When truth outweighs love (out of balance) we have the facts of the matter but it prophesies us nothing (I Corinthians 13:1-3). In God's plan, love and truth are both vital if we are to be both saved and genuine family.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), but He also commanded us to love one another as He loves us, (John 13:25, 35). We cannot be like Jesus, we cannot follow "in His steps" (I Peter 2:21) unless we teach genuine biblical truth and do so in genuine love.

Unfortunately, some Christians think that hard truth taught in hard ways is somehow more biblical or more mature. Others think that love is so important that it somehow trumps truth (although logic to explain that is usually lacking). In God's plan, truth and love must be balanced. NO - we do not compromise truth and then label it love. And, NO, we do not ignore love and label it "teaching truth." In God's balance truth without love is a foreign concept and love without truth is just as unknown.

Teaching truth without love might make one *feel noble*, but is, in reality, ungodly. Teaching love without truth might make one *feel loving* but is, in reality not love because it does not make one *free!*

In our walk on this earth let us never compromise truth and let us never ignore love. When we do, Satan wins our souls and the souls of others. Teach truth like there is no tomorrow and teach it in love remembering our endless tomorrows with Him.

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