

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

- Why did Paul write the Epistles?
- What was the challenge for the Apostles?
- **Read Eph. 4:11-16.**
- What can we learn from these verses about our growth into Christ?
- What were Paul's goals when writing to the church at EPHESUS and GALATIA?

Speaking the truth in love IS BEST DONE WITH ASSISTANT OF FAITHFUL COMPANIONS

Gal. 2:1

Paul specifically mentions BARNABAS and TITUS as his companions on this relief mission to Jerusalem.

- **Read 2 Cor. 2:12-13, 2 Cor 7:6-7, 2 Cor 8:16, 2 Cor 8:23, and 2 Cor 12:18.**
- What do we learn from these verses about TITUS?
- **Read Acts 4:36-37, Acts 9:26-27, Acts 11:25-26 and Acts 13:1-3.**
- What do we learn about BARNABAS?
- Paul and Barnabas had a falling out over the young disciple John Mark (**Acts 15:36-40**).
- What do we learn about BARNABAS from these verses?
- What was at stake for TITUS when Paul met the apostles in Jerusalem?

Speaking the truth in love DEMANDS WISDOM AND PRUDENCE

Gal. 2:2-6

- Paul and Peter were called to teach the gospel of grace to different groups of people. Can you identify who Paul was to preach to and who Peter was to preach to and why was this a concern when they met?
- As Paul reached Jerusalem, what is the history of this part of “his letter” that is important for us to know?
- Re-read *verses 4-5*.
- What were Paul, Barnabas and Titus up against?
- What was the “wisdom and prudence” that Paul showed us?
- What is the lesson for us today? (refer *to Jude 1:3 and 1 Peter 3:15*)
- Why did the Judaizers consider themselves better than the others?
- What can we learn from Prov. 15:1?

Speaking the truth in love PRODUCES RIGHT LIVING

Gal. 2:9-10

- What has happened since Paul’s first visit to Jerusalem
- (*Acts 9:26-30, Acts 9:30, Acts 11:25, Acts 10:1-16, Acts 10:17-48, Acts 11:1-18, Acts 11:19-21, Acts 11:22-24 and Acts 11:25-26*)?
- Why did Paul go back to Jerusalem a second time (*verse 2 and Acts 11:27-30*)
- When Paul, Barnabas and Titus arrived in Jerusalem what two important things did they do?
- What was the only requirement the elders of Jerusalem gave Paul?
- Why is this important for us today?
- What was Paul’s main lesson for us in these verses that Pastor mentioned that was a “life changing power meant to be expressed through our hearts and hands from the inside out?”

APPLICATION

Pastor summarized the theological truth of God’s grace and gave several examples of how we can put this truth into practice.

- What truths, that he mentioned can you put into practice or are you putting into practice?