

Basic Training Series Introduction

The Importance of Truth

Eph 4:11-15

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

- I. Introduction to the introduction
- A. Basic training – we are in the world but not of the world
 1. Basic training, or boot camp, is a place where soldiers get their beginning foundational training that introduces them to the basics of military life.
 2. In the month of February and part of March, we will use be teaching a series called “Basic Training,” covering topics from the Bible on important and foundational truths that define what the church is.
 3. We will study the church that Jesus and His apostles founded around 33AD, and study what they believed. We will be studying Acts, the letters to the churches, as well as the resources they quoted, the Law of Moses, the prophets, and psalms.
 4. What teachings did that early church believe when it was founded that made the church the church?

5. What made the church different than the temple in Jerusalem or the synagogues that Jesus and the disciples attended weekly?
6. Or for that matter, what made the church different from other religions and pagan groups of that day in the Greek and Roman world?
7. We will also look at topics very important to us now, like what makes the church different from our present world.
8. Anyone over 7 years old has in their lifetime witnessed drastic changes in long-standing societal institutions making them more secular and less sacred.
9. With that being the case in the world we live, where does the church stand?
10. Should the church shift and change along with the culture, or does there exist unchanging standards in the Bible that define the church that makes it different from the world around it?

11. Jesus said His followers had to be **in the world:**

*John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but **these are in the world**, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

12. But He also said, **we are not of the world:**

*John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because **they are not of the world**, even as I am not of the world.*

13. So what makes the church the church? It is their foundation and anchor to truth. Which we will look deeper into tonight.

B. This series will answer questions

1. But in this series, we will uncover truths on foundational Bible topics that answer such practical questions as: **[slide]**

- a. How do we pray?
- b. What does it mean to be saved?

- c. What is does it mean to have a new life?
 - d. Who is God?
 - e. What is worship?
 - f. Is the Bible God's Word?
 - g. What does it mean to be a good steward?
 - h. What is the meaning of: "God made them male and female"?
 - i. Does modesty still matter?
 - j. Does how I talk really matter?
 - k. What is marriage?
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- c. Is change the goal?
 1. Regarding marriage, that will be the topic of the next two Sunday mornings as we approach Valentines Day.
 2. That is a topic that dramatically changed in 2015 when the U.S. Supreme Court changed the marriage definition, but this teaching is not a reaction to our culture, but a study of our foundations.

3. If we do not know our foundation or the authority on which we stand, we will be like a boat drifting on a sea driven by every wind of doctrine that blows it from every direction.
4. But fortunately, the church has an anchor in God's word.
5. We often hear political candidates say, "a vote for me is a vote for change."
6. So while the world experiments with all kinds of changes, redefining things that have been an anchor in society for thousands of years, the church must retain its anchor to the Word of God.
7. So that is the point of the Basic Training Series. Not to redefine truth, but to rediscover truth.

II. The Importance of Truth

A. Jesus brought truth to the world

1. When Jesus was standing trial before Governor Pilate, Jesus revealed to Pilate the

purpose for His birth. This is the one place in scripture where Jesus spoke of His own birth.

*John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. **To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, [we must we pay close attention to what comes next] that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.***

2. There is such a thing as truth, and Jesus came to earth to bear witness of it.
3. I'd like to point out that the culture that Jesus came to was all about change as well.

Here is a brief timeline of cultural change:[slide]

- a. In the 600s BC, Babylon conquered Israel and brought in Babylonian culture.
- b. In the 500s BC, the Persians conquered them and brought in Persian culture.

- c. The Greeks conquered the Persians in the 300s BC and brought Greek culture.
 - d. The Romans conquered them in the 60s BC and brought in Roman culture, and in about 40BC, Herod the Great became king of the land that Israel once ruled.
4. And as we read earlier, Jesus said He was born, King of the Jews, and came to testify unto the truth.
 5. The world had centuries worth of leaders vowing to bring change, and they did. But then Jesus came bringing truth.
 6. And of course, Herod the Great was king at the time and did not like competition for the job of King of the Jews, so he sought to destroy baby Jesus.
 7. But instead, Jesus was born (and lived) and Herod died in about the same year.
 8. Then Jesus came along and testified to the truth, declaring such things to the world as:
John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that

*worship him **must** worship him in spirit and in **truth**.*

9. So how do you worship God in truth? How do you know you are on the path of truth? Jesus said:

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the **truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- B. Jesus brought others into truth by the Holy Ghost

1. And as Jesus began to teach that truth, more and more people came to Him and found truth and the freedom it brings:
*John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the **truth** shall make you free.*
2. You see, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome all brought in worship of a multitude of gods and idols, each demanding worship.
3. But each of those was a man-made image that man thought could help them, but they could not.

4. But Jesus brought truth—He was the path to God and worshiping Him in Spirit and Truth!
5. But what was to happen with truth when Jesus departed this world?
6. Since Jesus was truth, Jesus said He, as the “Spirit of truth,” would soon dwell in them:
John 14:17-18
*17 Even the Spirit of **truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
7. And what a comfort it is to have Jesus living inside of you as the Spirit of truth, the Comforter, the Holy Ghost.
John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

8. The way Jesus would guard truth for generations to come, was to put into believers the Spirit of truth—also known as the Comforter and the Holy Ghost, that help them remember the things Jesus had taught them.
9. And that special promise helped the apostles and early disciples to write down the truth on parchments and scrolls and would pass it down to all generations.
10. And in the days to come, they would realized that the Spirit of truth was with them to **continue to guide them to all truth:**
*John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of **truth**, is come, he will guide you into all **truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*
11. This was a very special promise because it guaranteed the passing down of the message of truth from Jesus, to His

apostles, and then into the early church that went forth proclaiming the truth, and even to us.

- c. Jesus ensured that truth would march on
 - 1. But what assurance was there that the church kept preaching truth and did not slip off into error as former generations had done?
 - 2. Because weren't there false prophets, false brethren, false teachers, false witnesses, and false apostles who crept in unawares who promoted a false gospel? And didn't Jesus even warn of false christs who would come into the world?
 - 3. How was the church to guard against false teachings and to keep on truth?
 - 4. Well, not only did Jesus give the Spirit of truth, the gift of the Holy Ghost, He also gave the church other gifts to ensure that the church would stay on truth and not be blown about with every wind of doctrine.

5. Paul wrote of the “gift of Christ” that the church would be given that would ensure that the church could stay on truth:

Eph 4:7-8

*7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of **the gift of Christ.***

*8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and **gave gifts unto men.***

6. When Jesus ascended into heaven, His victory over death meant He had beat the devil and principalities and powers. His ascension made a show of them openly triumphing over them.
7. But not only did Jesus’ ascension whip the devil good, but it was also at that point that Jesus gave gifts unto men.
8. Jesus gave gifts to the church referred to as the five-fold ministry:

Eph 4:11-14

*11 And **he gave** some, apostles; and some,*

prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

9. The body of Christ needs edifying or building up. And the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers have the job of keeping the building in order and on the foundation of truth.

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

10. Here is what the five-fold ministry has the job to guard against:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

11. So teaching the truth must be continued in the church to keep it from falling to crafty lies and deception. And we must continue teaching the truth until we “all come in the unity of the faith...unto a perfect man,” which I believe refers to when the believers are perfected in their glorified bodies at the rapture and caught up to heaven.
 12. What a glorious day! What a glorious hope!
- D. Present truth with love
1. But preaching truth is not done lightly. When people believe a crafty lie and deception, they may not recognize they are in error and need correction. How can we help them move from error to truth?
 2. It is on this point that the church is sometimes judged as being judgmental.
 3. A man may not like it when he is wandering around lost, and you suggest to him that he must follow a map or your directions.

4. A man doesn't like to stop and ask for directions, because rather than admitting they are lost, they will likely tell you it is a shortcut.
5. It is only after much lost time and enduring much grief on their shortcut that a man is willing to admit he is lost and needs help to find his way.
6. But it is important how we communicate truth. To assure that truth is received by the next generation, we must **speak the truth in love.**

Eph 4:15-16

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

*16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***

7. The body can self-heal for that is how God created it. Love is the white blood cells of the body that boosts its immune system.
- E. Teaching truth is a preservative in the church
 1. Preaching truth in the church is what keeps the church the church. Preaching truth keeps the church from becoming like other worldly institutions.
 2. As a side note, Col 2:8 warns that false ideas of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, and the rudiments [basic teachings] of the world capture cultures with deceit.
 3. That is why preaching unchanging truth is necessary.

Eph 4:17-21

*17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,
18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through*

the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

4. So how does the church ensure we do not walk as other Gentiles walk in vanity of mind and get caught in darkness? It is because they are being taught truth and are learning truth:

*20 But **ye have not so learned Christ;***

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

5. When we teach the truth, it prevents darkness from creeping into the church. It is then that we can be assured that the solid foundation, the anchor of truth, will hold the church into the next generation.
6. But this kind of truth preaching is often unpopular in our modern, so-called “progressive” society.

7. We are seen as back-woods, patriarchal, intolerant, bigots, and even haters.

III. Conclusion

1. It is odd that the church's message of truth and love is perceived in the world as hate.

2. But it is not really us they despise as much as truth that declares evil as evil. Jesus said: *John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

3. Jesus was hated because He proclaimed what was evil. But that is what truth does.

4. How can truth survive unless we preach it? And how can truth prevail against evil unless truth points out what is evil?

5. When the doctor diagnoses a damaged liver, he says it must be cut out and replaced with a good liver.

6. We did not call him intolerant and judgmental because he diagnosed an ill and offered a solution.

7. And if the church preaches truth that reveals an ill in society, that does not make us haters. No. We are providing the gospel truth that is the solution to the world's ills.
8. Let us pursue this series as we pursue truth, with love, and grow up in the process:
*Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up** into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*