

January 24, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Message Series: Speaking The Truth in Love

Today's Message: What Does Love Require of Me?

1. Love Tells the Truth

Matthew 5:13-16

Three Realities:

#1: True Christians are Different From Non-Christians

1 John 2:15-17

⇒ The world's system is Dark; Christians are to be its Light.

⇒ The world's system is decaying, the Christian is to be salt, hindering its decay.

⇒ Christians are to permeate the non-Christian society, their Light is to shine into the darkness, and their salt is to soak into the decaying meat: Do we do this?

Matthew 6:8 "*Do not be like them.*"

#2: Christians Are Not to Dismiss Prayer as a Pious Platitude

James 5:16 "*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*"

Romans 1:16

◆ The Power of Prayer and The Power of the Gospel Belong Together.

#3: Witness and Protest

John 1:5

⇒ **All Truth**—is God's truth, He is the truth—and we are to be loving and fearless in defending, maintaining, and discussing it.

Truth is Powerful: when argued rightly, but it is even more powerful when we live it out.

2. True Love Is Willing To Suffer

1 Peter 3:8-12

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism: a phrase coined to describe the decadent form of Christianity that "believes that God exists, and wants nothing more from us than to be nice and to be happy."

1 Peter 3:13-18

◆ "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." ~ Burke

Sad Truth: Few Christians are prepared to suffer for their faith; the idea of bearing pain for the sake of truth seems ridiculous.

◆ **Orwell's "1984"** - "The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

◆ **"Doublethink"** - holding contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.

Today: "Men have periods" "You are to call the lady in front of you "he". Diversity and inclusion means excluding those who object to ideological uniformity.

3. Our Reason For Hope

1 Peter 3:15

"Hope" [GK elpis]: when our beliefs are under great trial and persecution, our creed brings great hope.

1 Peter 3:18, 22

⇒ What Does Love Require of Me?

1 John 4:11, 12