

Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

Truth Telling



Part of the 'Growing Together'
Discipleship Stream



Our Challenge

- Will we seek to 'raise the bar' when it comes to truth telling
- Will we reflect on whether lies have crept into our day lives
- Will we therefore seek to make a change in how we live?



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Living into Community – Christine D. Pohl

- Gratitude
- Promise keeping
- Truthfulness
- Hospitality



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Psalm 86:11-13 - Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your steadfast love toward me...

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Acts Chapter 2 – 4

- Gathering in homes
- Devoted to teaching and prayer
- Ate together
- Living in such a way that 1000's came to know Christ



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Acts Chapter 5 – Ananias and Sapphira

- Sold land
- Bought the income into the community
- Held back some for themselves
- Presented it as the whole amount
- Struck down dead



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Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

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Redeemed People are called to be different

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What does a Truth Telling Community Look like?

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. - John 14:6

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth - John 16:13

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **grace and truth**. - John 1:14



R e l a t i o n s h i p s M a t t e r
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A Truth Telling Community looks like....

Jesus

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Reasons why we lie or don't tell the truth

- I want to be accepted
- Everyone does it
- It's easy to do
- Fear of punishment
- Looking to be tripped up
- We call it different names
- We are fearful of what people will do
- We believe we are operating to a higher call



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Question To Ponder

Do some of those situations cause me to lie?

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Where should our focus be

We often start with questions

- Should a person ever lie?
- Truth - Telling someone something they don't want to hear

This isn't the right place to start



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Where should our focus be

The importance to **Truthful Living**

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Two ways to see Truth

- Forensic truth - Truth is seen as an accurate telling of The Facts – creation of knowledge about the passed
- Narrative truth - This has a different end, it is seeking healing, reconciliation, freedom, new life (reconciliation commission South Africa)



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If we are going to be a people who love truth then we build people up with it rather than using it to tear people down; it affirms what is good and right which only seeks to highlight what is evil and wrong.

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And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, - Philippians 1:9

Being truthful is not only about speaking hard things but discerning the whole picture with gentleness, humility and patience



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Truthfulness and Faithfulness go hand in hand

A close connection between truthfulness and fidelity is important at the individual as well as the community level because faithfulness in making and keeping promises is central to a community's ability to speak and hear the truth



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