



Ephesians 4:15-16

Truth, Love and Spiritual Growth

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Speaking the Truth in Love

Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)

Rather, speaking **the truth in love**, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ

- "Speaking the truth" is a Greek word that means "verbal confession of the truth"
- Truth is in strong contrast to deceit, error and scheming (vs. 14)
- Love is the motive for speaking the truth

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The Unity of the Body

Ephesians 4:16a (ESV)

from whom **the whole body**, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped,...

- We need every supporting connection
- "Joined" is also used in Ephesians 2:21
- The organic unity of the body is strongly emphasized in Ephesians
- Christ works in and through each member

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The Body Grows Together

Ephesians 4:16b (ESV)

...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that **it builds itself up** in love.

- Paul uses biological and building metaphors to describe the body's growth
- Love is the sphere of growth
- Christ is the source of growth
- The body has unity and diversity

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Implications and Applications

- Love and speaking truth are both necessary
- There is no God-ordained solitary Christian life
- Depending on Christ alone never precludes His corporate work through His body

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Obedience to Truth Implies Love

1 Peter 1:22 (NASB)

Since you have in **obedience to the truth purified** your souls for a **sincere love of the brethren**, fervently love one another from the heart

- “Purified” means consecrated for service
- Truth calls for obedience which will motivate us to love God and His people
- This love is genuine, fervent, and practiced unremittingly

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Not Solitary But Corporate

Galatians 5:13 (NASB)

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only **do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh**, but through love serve one another.

- Freedom does not imply license
- “Flesh” is the whole person living for self
- Practical love expressed to each other in the body of Christ pleases God (Rom. 8:8)

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Serving One Another in Love

Romans 12:10-13 (NASB)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

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7