

“No Longer Be Children”

Ephesians 4:14-16

NOTE: Church Picnic on February 17. Discipleship Classes at 9:00. One all-church Worship service at 10:00

INTRODUCTION: CONTEXT

→ Followers of Jesus are called to walk as Jesus walked. We are called to a way of life.

1. Ephesians ch.4-6 give four characteristics of how followers of Jesus are called to walk:

- Unity (4:1-16), Purity (4:17-5:21), Love (5:22-6:9), and Warfare (6:10-20).

2. Today we finish the section on Unity.

- *Essentially*, our UNITY as followers of Jesus is based upon TRUTH. 4:4-6
- *Practically*, our UNITY happens as we use our spiritual gifts to grow one another up in truth. v.7-12, v.13

3. Paul gives two pictures of comparison:

- Mature manhood (v.13) vs. children (v.14)
- Tossed to and fro by the waves (v.14) vs. growing up, joined and held together (v.15-16). Ref. James 1:5-8

BE CAREFUL OF WORDS COMING TO YOU. v.14

1. No longer be children.

- The word refers specifically to immaturity—in contrast to the theme of growing to maturity in v.12-16.

2. Be careful of false teaching. “every wind of doctrine” Ref. 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Acts 20:28-30

3. Be careful of ‘human cunning.’

- Literally: ‘evil dice playing’ → refers to intentional fraud

4. Be careful of ‘craftiness in deceitful schemes.’

- Craftiness = intentional trickery and deception.

→ Summary: tossed to and fro, carried about through error, delusion, and deceit.

BE CAREFUL OF WORDS COMING FROM YOU. v.15-16

1. Speaking the truth in love... v.15

- Truth’ is in participle form. I.e., ‘truthing one another in love’ (Ref. J.M. Boice)
- ‘Truth others in love.’ Prov. 27:6: Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

2. Rather...

- Speaking the truth in love is the means by which the error, delusion, and deceit of v.14 is addressed.

→ Not that you *can* speak the truth in love... not that you *should*... but that you *MUST* speak the truth in love!

3. We cannot speak the truth in love unless we are hearing the truth in love (from God’s Word).

- Ephesians 5:1-2
- God ‘truthed’ us in love by sending his son Jesus Christ. Romans 5:6-8: *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

(Next week’s text: Ephesians 4:17-21)