



SPEAK *the* TRUTH *in* LOVE

Danny Silk

Sunday, September 26.



Teaching Text:



Ephesians 4:17-32

So with the wisdom given to me from the Lord I say: You should not live like the unbelievers around you who walk in their empty delusions. Their corrupted logic has been clouded because their hearts are so far from God—their blinded understanding and deep-seated moral darkness keeps them from the true knowledge of God. Because of spiritual apathy, they surrender their lives to lewdness, impurity, and sexual obsession. But this is not the way of life that Christ has unfolded within you. If you have really experienced the Anointed One, and heard his truth, it will be seen in your life; for we know that the ultimate reality is embodied in Jesus! And he has taught you to let go of the lifestyle of the ancient man, the old self-life, which was corrupted by sinful and deceitful desires that spring from delusions. Now it's time to be made new by every revelation that's been given to you. And to be transformed as you embrace the glorious Christ-within as your new life and live in union with him! For God has recreated you all over again in his perfect righteousness, and you now belong to him in the realm of true holiness. So discard every

form of dishonesty and lying so that you will be known as one who always speaks the truth, for we all belong to one another. But don't let the passion of your emotions lead you to sin! Don't let anger control you or be fuel for revenge, not for even a day. Don't give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you! If any one of you has stolen from someone else, never do it again. Instead, be industrious, earning an honest living, and then you'll have enough to bless those in need. And never let ugly or hateful words come from your mouth, but instead let your words become beautiful gifts that encourage others; do this by speaking words of grace to help them. The Holy Spirit of God has sealed you in Jesus Christ until you experience your full salvation. So never grieve the Spirit of God or take for granted his holy influence in your life. Lay aside bitter words, temper tantrums, revenge, profanity, and insults. But instead be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ's love

Week .01

recap:

This week Danny Silk delivers an encouraging but challenging message on the importance of speaking the truth in love and holding onto our convictions. We live in a culture that is continually at odds with our values, beliefs and convictions. Society attempts to distract and delude us by creating false definitions of what is true. Lewdness has slowly crept into the fabric of our daily lives and it is something we have all gotten used to.

As believers, we must remember that we have been set apart. We are in this world but not of it. The church is in need of a love and truth revival like never before. Revival starts with us and every person we encounter should experience the Father's love through our lives and actions.

Jesus came into the world to bring freedom and redemption to all. Conformity was never part of His plan. Our goal should never be to be liked and adored by the world but it is all too easy to fall into the trap of conformity. When we speak up against cultural norms, we are subjected to backlash or ridicule. As a result, we begin to adjust our beliefs, change our minds or just stay quiet.

Eventually, we get to the point where we have adjusted and conformed to such a degree that we can no longer identify what we truly think or believe. But a series of compromises will ultimately cost us our lives. Our personal convictions come through being convinced of some fundamental truths. As followers of Christ we must be absolutely convinced that: Jesus is God, the Bible is true, we can hear the voice of God, we can discern truth from lies, God is good and the devil is a destructive liar.

Conformity is what we default to in order to avoid punishment. We choose to conform because we do not want to suffer or feel uncomfortable. Children, prisoners, soldiers and scared people conform. We are guaranteed to experience pain and discomfort in this life. Jesus knew this to be true so He sent the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. The truth is uncomfortable and it is costly. Conviction will start a fight but conformity will change our convictions.

Discussion Guide

EMOTIONAL HEALTH CHECK IN

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check in with your Life on Life group, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

• What or who is making you feel hopeful or joyful this week? What's one area we can pray over, perhaps where hope feels lacking?

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

ENGAGE

1. When you think about areas of your life can you identify points where lewdness may have slowly crept in (TV, music, social media)? How are you personally impacted by those areas?
2. How are those around you experiencing the Father's love through your life?
3. In what ways have you fallen into the trap of conformity?
4. Can you easily name and identify your personal convictions? What are some of those for you?

ENCOUNTER

Spend a few minutes in stillness and quiet (you may want to play soothing music) in your group and ask Holy Spirit the following question:

Holy Spirit, are there any areas of my life where I have allowed arrogance to prevent me from connecting with the younger/older generation? Please reveal to me those individuals You would like me to move towards and show me what it is to be humble.

If time permits, allow those who want to, share what God spoke to them during the Encounter time.

EQUIP

Step out this week and intentionally connect with someone from either the younger or older generation. Invite them to coffee or lunch and just make space for one another and share your stories.



