

MESSAGE

Occasion : Lighthouse Sunday Coming Together
Theme : Being Edified as One in 2021. Fitly joined, growing together, increasing in build in the love of Christ
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon. Online Live Streaming
Date : February 14, 2021

TITLE : REALITIES OF LIFE AND HOW WE CAN BE FITLY JOINED, GROW TOGETHER, INCREASE IN BUILD IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Text/s :

Eph 4:15-16

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

KJV

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

KJV

Titus 2:13-15

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

KJV

Bible Reading :

1 Peter 2:1-10

1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,
2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,
5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,
8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.
9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

KJV

Song/s :

- Redeemed
- Blessed Assurance
- Dwelling in Beulah Land

Other references :

Instructions :

INTRODUCTION

IT'S REAL

Homer Cox (1907)

1

O how well do I remember
how I doubted day by day,
For I did not know for certain
that my sins were washed away;
When the Spirit tried to tell me,
I would not the truth receive.
I endeavored to be happy,
and to make myself believe.

Refrain:

But it's real, it's real;
O I know it's real;
Praise God, the doubts are settled,
For I know, I know it's real.

2

When the truth came close and searching,
all my joy would disappear.
For I did not have the witness
of the Spirit bright and clear;
If at times the coming judgment
would appear before my mind,
O it made me so uneasy,
for God's smile I could not find. [Refrain]

3

But at last I tired of living
such a life of fear and doubt,
For I wanted God to give me
something I would know about;
So the truth would make me happy,
and the light would clearly shine,
And the Spirit give assurance
that I'm His and He is mine. [Refrain]

4

So I prayed to God in earnest,
and not caring what folks said.
I was hungry for the blessing;
my poor soul, it must be fed;
When at last by faith I touched Him,
and, like sparks from smitten steel,

Just so quick salvation reached me;
O bless God, I know it's real! [Refrain]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFdfdw59x6c>

Top 10 Differences Between Truth and Reality **Published on May 28, 2015**

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Comment23

The interchangeable use of “truth” for “reality” and vice versa is pretty widespread. In fact, way back on November 27, 2010 I took to Twitter to highlight what I believed was a key distinction:

TMT: There is a difference between reality and truth—the former can sometimes have shades of gray, the latter is always black and white. #in

A lack of knowledge of the truth does not belie its existence or confer it a nebulous status. In their personal and professional lives, ordinary people often conflate reality with truth. However, those pursuing a spiritual path and seeking the “eternal truth” are exempt from my discussion, since they tend to live in a reality that mere mortals will find hard to comprehend.

“Keeping it real,” is a phrase commonly used, especially among younger generations, who seem to favor “real” over “truth.” It’s almost like they want to avoid the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth... so they’d rather just keep it real without help from any higher power? But I kid the kids, only to make a point. There are indeed subtle differences between reality and truth; inasmuch that the former exists but only the latter can confirm its existence in any given circumstance.

The great scientist, Albert Einstein, had observed:

Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.

There could be no more glaring example of the increasing dichotomy between reality and the truth, then in the proliferation of “reality shows” on television in the past decade. These shows conflate their heavily edited versions of reality with the truth and seemingly present it as such. It’s almost like these shows have gauged that their audience wittingly accepts their version of reality as the truth.

So where does reality end and the truth begin? Or, more accurately, how do we uncover the truth that is embedded in reality? Clearly the truth is always omnipresent in reality, but on occasion it just takes time to surface. It’s why the father of our nation, George Washington, had intoned:

Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light.

Knowing how illusive reality can be and how challenging the search for the truth, even in a non-spiritual context, can become, let me attempt to shed some light on this dichotomy with my very own, “Top 10 Differences Between Truth and Reality:”

1. Truth is absolute, Reality is cognitive.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan had famously said:

Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts.

If we simply substitute “reality” for opinion and “truth” for facts, his words of wisdom are equally valid in our dichotomy. While different people may perceive the reality of a given situation differently, there is always one, and only one, version of the truth for that situation.

2. Truth hurts, Reality bites.

The ecosystem that surrounds the truth in any given situation is the reality of that situation as perceived by its individual participants. In a business situation, the truth might be as stark as the sudden cancellation of a critical multimillion-dollar order. However, reality bites various functional groups in the company's ecosystem in different ways, even as the truth hurts the company's revenue stream.

3. Truth is singular, Reality is manifold.

In our company example above, the reality of the lost order is perceived differently by the finance guy worried about cash flow, by the purchasing guy dealing with inventory, by the manufacturing guy saddled with an idle assembly line, by the sales guy not making his numbers, etc.

4. Truth is objective, Reality is subjective.

The truth can be pleasant or it can be bitter. Regardless of outcome, the truth is determinative – it has finality to it. It is what it is... unlike reality, which can be interpreted in different ways by the various people it affects. The CEO of the business, in our earlier example, might see the sudden cancellation of a big order as a sign to undertake a major overhaul of his company's operations.

5. Truth is permanent, Reality is ephemeral.

Again, going back to the company that suffered a sudden cancellation of a big order, once the CEO acts on the truth, the subjective reality of the company's various functional groups begins to fade.

6. Truth emancipates, Reality constrains.

There isn't any more complicated example of the truth setting one free than by coming clean when a spouse has had an extramarital affair... always more easily said than done. The reality of that entire situation can constrain one or more participants from voluntarily divulging the truth, which would be liberating yet very difficult to fulfill.

7. Truth redeems, Reality informs.

The best that reality, viewed from anyone's perspective in any given situation, can do is inform or misinform the participants within the ecosystem. Only the truth can offer redemption, whether it is the spouse getting out of a bad marriage or the CEO steering a company out of a bad situation.

8. Truth comes from the heart, Reality follows from the head.

Very often the truth remains suppressed because analytical and logical thinking suggests that all affected players within the ecosystem would be better off, at least in the near term, if it were so. Both, the cheating spouse and the worried CEO know that their respective realities indicate that the can could be kicked down the road. But, within their hearts they know the truth – postponing the inevitable sometimes creates a snowball effect. The reality is you have to know when to listen to your heart.

9. Truth requires courage, Reality reflects convenience.

The cheating spouse and the worried CEO listening to their hearts might seem ironic, but facing the truth requires courage. More often than not, the convenient thing to do is the cowardly thing to do.

10. Truth is always real, Reality is not always true.

At the end of the day, the truth will prevail – it is the ultimate and only reality. There is no second-guessing the truth like we can do with reality. What is real to you maybe unreal to somebody else? In fact, as Einstein said, "reality is merely an illusion..." until it reveals the truth!

The finality of truth can be summed up in this quotation from The Bhagavad Gita:

**What is not real never was and never will be. What is real always was and cannot be destroyed.
So yes, by all means, keep it real, but always seek the truth!**

BODY

Reality and Truth.

People today are so engrossed in reality shows. And they live according to the realities they face in life. They talk about challenges for each journey. And they live according to the realities they confront in all these challenges. Realities. We face them. But how?

The rule is this... We have to face realities according to truth. This is a hard statement.

Reality is what is true as we face them.

Iba ang totoo sa Katotohanan.

Heb 2:14-15

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

KJV

1 John 4:18-19

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

KJV

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

KJV

Titus 2:13-15

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

KJV

The realities of life vs the truth in Christ.

This is what we should be according to the truth.

Eph 4:11-13

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

KJV

Eph 4:15-16

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

KJV

Eph 4:20-21

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;
21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

KJV

And by these we confront that “realities” that we face in life.

We are confronted daily with “every wind of doctrine, teachings, error, fake news that affect our lives.

Eph 4:14-32

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But what do we do? We all speak the truth in love. The truth of Christ. We learn Christ.

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

A) The truth about the work of Christ in us in dealing with the realities that confront the believer’s walk.

Eph 4:17-22

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

KJV

2 Cor 5:14-17

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

KJV

Eph 2:1-6

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
KJV

Eph 4:1-6

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
KJV

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
KJV

Eph 5:3-10

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;
4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.
5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.
7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
KJV

Gal 5:19-23

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
KJV

B) The truth about the work of the Spirit in us in dealing with the realities that confront the mind.

Eph 4:23-27

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.
26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
27 Neither give place to the devil.
KJV

Rom 12:2

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

KJV

Rom 8:5-17

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

KJV

1 Peter 1:13-16

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

KJV

Eph 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

KJV

C) The truth about the works in which we need to walk as we confront the realities of greed, bitterness, wrath, anger around us.

Eph 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

KJV

Eph 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

KJV

Eph 4:1-16

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)
11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
KJV

Eph 4:28-32

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
KJV

Col 3:5-17

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.
8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:
11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.
12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
KJV

CONCLUSION

2 Cor 13:8

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

KJV

John 15:5

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

KJV