

Introduction

- I. The world in which we live shows little regard for speaking the truth in love.
- II. Whenever we speak there are two basic things we should think about:

Speaking Truth in Love

I. The Necessary Truth

- A. Part of speaking truth is that we put off lying, which is a deliberate twisting or changing of what we know is truth.

- B. The first thing we should ask when we are about to speak: is what I am about to say the truth?

II. The Motivating Love

- A. Eph. 4:15 calls us to speak the truth **in love**. Not only must we speak the truth, but this must be done in love for the neighbor (husband, wife, brother, sister, friend, mother, father...).

 1. The opposite of this is described in LD 43 in the sins forbidden: backbiting, slander, judging any man rashly or unheard.
 2. We are called to defend and promote the honor and good character of the neighbor.

- B. There is something higher than love for the neighbor that motivates us - we must be motivated by our love for God.

III. The Only Possibility - this arises out of Ephesians 4 and the whole book.

- A. The only possibility is found in Christ, as Paul points out in Eph. 4:20ff.

- B. As we struggle with this sin, we are called to look to Christ and trust in Him.