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SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

There is often a time when we are to share with others when they have gotten off track and not going the right direction that they should be going in. Perhaps there is an offense, or perhaps it is a sin in their life.

Galatians 6:1 tells us, ***“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”***

The word spiritual means non carnal, or not being in the flesh. So often when we see someone in sin, we immediately want to tell them to get their act together. This is not meekness. This lacks love and can destroy the person. We are to tell them the truth about their sin and what it has caused but tell it to them in love.

In Matthew 18:15 it shows the scriptural way to handle offenses and “sin in the camp.” ***“<sup>15</sup> Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother <sup>16</sup> But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. <sup>17</sup> And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”***

You notice, you first go alone to talk to the person. You don't gang up on them or bring anyone with you. The reason you go is to get things right. Then, if they don't receive the correction you take one or two with you. Again, the reason is to bring correction, done in love. You only take one or maybe two with you the second time. If they still don't receive you and receive correction, then you take it to the church. You do not put it in the newspaper or on social media. The purpose of correction and discipline is to restore someone that has missed the mark.

We must never bring a correction to destroy someone. We must never slander them to “help them wake up.” It is always to be done through love to bring restoration. When we walk in love, we walk like Jesus did. Only when they refuse correction are they put out of the church.

Love should always be our motivation no matter what we do in life. Love always honors God.