

Let your "Yes" be yes
James 5:12

Above all, my brothers, do not swear-- not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. James 5:12 (NIV)

In the midst of a crisis of truth, God gives a radical call to radical truthfulness!

Above all, my brothers, do not swear-- not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. James 5:12 (NIV)

The work of lies and the work of truth:

The work of lies:

- It damages relationships
- It damages our usefulness for God
- It damages our relationship with God
- It damages our eternity

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. I John 3:9 (NIV)

The work of truth:

- It guides us

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. (Psalm 43:3 NIV)

- It protects and arms us

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. (Psalm 40:11 NIV)

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place... (Ephesians 6:13-14 NIV)

- It sets us free

"...Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32 NIV)

- It brings us to the light

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." (John 3:21 NIV)

- It brings us to new birth

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. (James 1:18 NIV)

- It purifies us

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22 NIV)

- It causes God to delight in us

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful. (Proverbs 12:22 NIV)

"What the church will need, what our century will need, are not people of genius, not brilliant tacticians or strategists, but simple, straightforward, honest men and women." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Radical truthfulness is one of the greatest needs of the church today.