

The Elephant in the Church

(Galatians 4:16)

- Introduction:
1. All of us have been in awkward situations where something uncomfortable was obvious, but no one was willing to talk about it.
 2. Sometimes this situation can even happen in the church.
 3. For a variety of reasons, we sometimes are uncomfortable to talk about issues that affect our life in Christ.
 4. But such should not be the case.
 5. In this series of lessons, we are going to be talking about several “elephants” in the church.
 6. However, tonight’s lesson is designed to encourage and inform the church how to be a safe place to talk about “uncomfortable” issues.
 7. Let’s examine three ways we can help make the church a safe place.

I. The Church Is Made Safe By Our Love

- A. (John 13:35).
- B. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).
 1. The way of love is a more excellent way.
 2. It isn’t intuitive, it takes work.
 3. But it can be mastered.

II. The Church Is Made Safe By Our Vision

- A. (Luke 7:44).
- B. We need to really work on seeing as God sees.
- C. Whereas the Pharisee only saw a sinful woman, Jesus saw a desperate woman wanting relief from her past; her reputation; her sin.
- D. We need to see our brothers and sisters as those who are desperate to rid themselves of sin, and not looking for excuses or loopholes allowing them to continue to embrace sin.

III. The Church Is Made Safe By Our Commitment To Truth

- A. (Psalm 119:105).
- B. (John 8:32).
- C. Jesus was known as one who showed no favoritism but always spoke the truth.
 1. (Mark 10:17-22).
 2. (Mark 12:14).

- Conclusion:
1. Brethren, let’s be that church that removes the elephants, sees people as genuine seekers, and which tackles difficult, relevant questions with love and truth.