

# Aids to Truth: Being Genuine & Consistent

(Romans 2:1,4)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of preacher who lived a double life.
  2. (Romans 2:1,24).
  3. Haven't we all been "put off" by someone who holds the truth, but does so with arrogance and hypocrisy?
    - a. Ills. of preacher smoking a pipe.
  4. In order for us to be successful in reaching the lost, we must not only have truth, but we must speak it and handle it in love (Eph. 4:15).
  5. (1 Timothy 4:16) Take heed to self and doctrine.
  6. (Titus 2:7) Hold the truth with integrity.
  7. Let's explore a few qualities we must possess that must accompany our words.

## I. We Need Kindness & Compassion

- A. We have probably all heard people stand for the truth and wonder if they loved the people they were teaching.
- B. Social media has contributed to some of the meanest, sarcastic, and vitriolic speech I've ever heard.
- C. (Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6).
- D. Don't appeal to Jesus in an attempt to justify hate speech.
  1. Jesus could be very pointed (Matthew 23:23,24,33).
  2. Jesus knew their hearts (Mark 2:8; Luke 6:8).
  3. We don't (1 Cor. 2:11), so love demands we think the best (1 Cor. 13:7).
- E. Ills. of debate between two brothers. The one with truth lost because of attitude.
- F. You can laugh or make light of that which you preach and stand against.
  1. Sin is no laughing matter.
  2. When you make light of sin, any sin, you are hurting someone.
  3. (Romans 12:9) Abhor that which is evil.
- G. We must stop looking past the person with whom we are speaking.
  1. Our goal is not to win an argument.
  2. Our goal is to save a soul.

## II. We Need Discrimination

- A. How many times have you heard, "A sin is a sin."
- B. That is patently false!
  1. (John 19:31; Matthew 12:31-32; 1 John 5:16).
- C. If I fail to discriminate and treat all people the same, then I will most certainly drive people away from me.
  1. Ills. of the little boy getting water for his dad.
  2. Ills of engaged couple and a sexual predator.

2. Ills. the recovering alcoholic and the non-repentant alcoholic.
- D. Failure to see a distinction will run these people away from us.
- E. While discrimination requires greater effort, it's the only way to treat people fairly.
- F. (Matthew 7:12) The Golden Rule.

### **III. We Need Consistency**

- A. The lack of consistency turns people off.
- B. If we demand repentance from others, but offer excuses for our own family, we lose our integrity and moral authority.
- C. Ills. Elders wanting to discipline but unwilling to repent.
- D.

- Conclusion:
1. Kindness, discrimination, and consistency; these three qualities will go far in helping to assure people we are genuine.
  2. Without genuineness, our message will fall on deaf ears, even if it is the truth.
  3. May God help us pursue equality pursue godly attitudes as much as we pursue the truth.