



# The Planter

“The seed is the word of God”, Luke 8:11



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## Teaching the Truth In Love

There has been a lot of hateful rhetoric over the last decade of my life. Perhaps it has always been there, and I only just began to notice it. Whether it has or not, the fact is, we all recognize it now. Such a reality often leads to reminders that, as Christians, above all, we must teach the truth in love. Such a statement often sounds clichéd anymore, but it is a vital element to our theology and practice of Christianity. Why is it so important to always teach the truth in love?

For one thing, it makes the greatest impact. Proverbs 15:1 tells us, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” When conversations degenerate into angry fights, it is usually because one or both people fail to present their case in a loving manner. In order to get a point across, in order to generate true influence in someone else, love must be the tone and method of the conversation.

Secondly, teaching in love is vital because it is often the difference between having a great, good, or bad reputation. Individuals and congregations both will be remembered by the prevalence of love or negativity. Furthermore, like it or not, it takes very few negative encounters to destroy an abundance of loving ones. Those will be the encounters that people remember, and that they talk about with other people. This is not to say that mistakes are never made, but it emphasizes the need to be intentionally focused on teaching in love.

What constitutes teaching “in love”?

Your Intent – Are you trying to win a fight and prove someone wrong, or mature a soul in the grace of Jesus? Are you seeking to please God or stroke your own ego by showing how knowledgeable and pious you are? It makes a difference. Winning a fight can create an “at all costs” attitude. If the soul is lost because we failed to love like God, it does not matter that you were academically correct.

Your Tone and Tactic – Too many people take a Matthew 23 approach as their first approach to teaching or conflict. But Jesus rarely, if ever, lambasted someone in his first conversation. 1 Peter 3:15 emphasizes gentleness and respect as the tone we take in our defense of the hope in us.

*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”*

When these are absent, so is your influence. When your influence is lost, so is your ability to carry out God’s mission.

Teaching the truth in love. It is not just a cliché. It is an essential aspect to living out the faith for which we stand. May God help us to do this every day, everywhere.

Cory Waddell

**November 24, 2024**

Sunday Morning  
Opening Prayer Justin Glaze  
Closing Prayer Payton Payne

Scripture Reading Adam Cordell

Sunday Evening  
Opening Prayer Dan Logan  
Closing Prayer Jim Warnock

**Remember in prayer:**

**Lindsey Fletcher Smith**, kidney stone procedure Monday.

**Greg Johnson**, melanoma.

Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Carrie Price, David Paden, Stefan Hoglund

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd, Jane Bishop, Jane York, Polly Hayes. Millie Hardin (Macon)

**Brothers Keepers Group Three** will meet tonight following services.

Please check the **Holiday Dinner** sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

The **Men's Holiday Dinner** will be on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board by **Dec. 4.** (\$10 each).

**Justin Glaze** will preach next Sunday night.

Record for the week of November 17, 2024  
10 am 11 am 1:00 pm Wed. Contribution  
86 84 82 78 \$3535.16

**Worship Assignments for December**

Announcements: Steve Fletcher  
Lord's table  
Carter Logan

Bo Eubanks Jim Warnock Joseph Tucker

**Weekly Assemblies**

**Sunday:**

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.  
First Sunday 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**Daily Bible Readings:**

November 24-30 A New Commandment

24 John 12:20-30; 13:34, 35  
25 Jeremiah 31:1-6  
26 Hosea 11:1-4  
27 John 15:7-20  
28 Romans 12:9-21  
29 Phil 1:3-11  
30 1 John 4:7-21

**Our Christian Example**

The story is told of a Christian high school senior who was honored as one of the best and brightest in his community because he provided a forceful demonstration of integrity.

When his school team was given the word "auditorium" in a regional spelling bee, he glanced down to ponder his response and noticed that the word was printed on the microphone stand. He called this to the attention of the judges who responded with a more difficult word. The young man did what he knew was right whether others noticed or not.

We don't know when our actions may become an example to others — we're always on display. But if we live each day to honor Jesus, our behavior will model His righteous life (Gal. 2:20; 1 John 2:5-6), no matter who is watching.

Uprightness and honor should be goals for Christians of every age. Paul told Timothy:

**"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity"** (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV).

As Christians, one of our goals in life should be to change the world around us **for good** while never compromising ourselves — one person at a time (Acts 10:38 NKJV; cf. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV; 1 Timothy 4:16 NKJV).

Mike Riley

**Elders:** Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan