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# Conflicts

## How to Resolve Conflicts Thru The Belt of Truth

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- Week **1**: *What Is The Truth?*
- Week **2**: *Truth vs Being Right*
- Week **3**: *Freedom From Being Passive*
- Week **4**: *Humility + Honesty = Truth*
- Week **5**: *The Belt of Truth*

**PASTOR JOHN FICHTNER**  
**OF LIBERTY CHURCH**

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3267 KATE STREET  
ACWORTH, GA 30102  
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<b>Key</b>	
	Unit or Week
	Take Notes
	Discussion
	Answers

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**SESSION OBJECTIVE:**

TO LEARN THE DIFFERENCE IN TRUTH AND BEING RIGHT

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**Introduction**

*\* John's Testimony of Usage of the Armor of God \**

The seven pieces of the armor of God are  
seven \_\_\_\_\_ that God wants to complete me in.

You gain a sense of becoming indestructible.  
In the warfare against the enemy of your soul, you cannot be beaten, because  
he can only attack you in \_\_\_\_\_!

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

- ✓ "FINALLY ..." - this means that in the book of the Bible that has the single focus to tell us the riches of our inheritance, he says, "Now I'm going to sum up everything in one last synopsis!" The armor of God is not a cute little toy ... it's the summation of this rich book.
- ✓ "...be strong in the Lord" - is it okay to want to be strong? Is it a good thing to say, 'I want the power of God in my life'? I don't want to just win, I want to win big! I will not live in mediocrity!
- ✓ "Put on the \_\_\_\_\_ armor of God..." - you would no more be flippant about just two or three than you would build a house with only three sides. When you complete the armor, you're completely protected!
- ✓ "...so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" - four times, he keeps using the word "stand". It's a battle \_\_\_\_\_. The picture is a Roman Gladiator fight. You don't say who won, you say, "Who was last \_\_\_\_\_?"

### Ephesians 6:10-18 *Continued*

- ✓ Verse 12 is a description of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the power of the forces against us. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." It's not a thing to be taken lightly that there is an enemy of your soul.
- ✓ Verse 13 - "Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes ..." - every day you will have little battles. In every person's life, there are two or three \_\_\_\_\_ of time when the enemy strategizes and goes in for the kill. You will live and be powerful forever, or you will die and lose it.
  - If you lose, you do lose. You lose your marriage. You can lose your children. You can lose your ministry. You can lose your career. You can lose your hope. You can lose your physical life.
  - But if you win, if you're the one left standing, you've won it forever. You've won your marriage. You've won the life of your children. You've won your career. You've won your physical life. You've won your ministry, your potential, your hope, your joy. You've won the completion of all you were called to be before the beginning of creation!
- ✓ "...you may be able to stand your ground. And after you have done everything ..." ("when the \_\_\_\_\_") "...to stand."

### First Piece of the Armor (v. 14)

#### The Belt of Truth

- I say, "Holy Spirit, please gird my loins with truth. Wrap that belt of truth around me tightly Holy Spirit."
- I don't dress myself. There is an armor bearer, a counselor, a helper. That's the Holy Spirit.

The Subject of Truth

- It can be as concrete or as nebulous as you care to make it.
- \* Example of Jesus in John 18 \*

 *Take Notes:*

- What is Truth? - are you a person of truth?
  - Is truth telling the facts accurately?
  - Is truth being sincerely honest about what you see or perceive?
  - Is truth understanding the motives of your own heart?
- According to the armor of God, if you understand all three of these things, you have at the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth, and as low as \_\_\_\_\_.

First Application

Truth is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of an issue.

When you put a belt on, you take this thread and connect it to one side of the situation ... one angle of the issue ... and slowly and steadily you weave it through each belt loop until you have totally encircled every side of the situation.

To put the belt of truth on is to insert a connecting thread through all of the different perspectives, none of which \_\_\_\_\_.

If, in the disagreements in your life, all you have is the ability to tell the facts accurately and understand your own perceptions and experiences, you don't have truth. All you have is a \_\_\_\_\_.

You have to make a choice whether you want the belt of truth or you want to be a belt loop in every disagreement you will ever face in your entire life.

The issue is \_\_\_\_\_.

- When you become a belt loop, you have become \_\_\_\_\_ to your perspective.
- When you become a belt, there is a sense of security but it takes longer.
- If you ever get to the place that you have the whole belt on, there's a sense of security.
- The frightening thing is, when you become a belt loop, you have \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth.
- In fact, when you are a belt loop, in your issues, you are \_\_\_\_\_.
- The greatest enemy of truth is to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Did you know you can be right and not be a man of truth?
- (Examples)



*Take Notes:*

- Because you are right and it has become a point of security to you, you defend it to the death.
- Will I be a belt loop, or will I have the belt of truth?
- If you're going to have the belt of truth, there's a price tag. Every person who ever disagrees with you, you have to decide if you're going to defend your perspective, or you're going to seek to find the \_\_\_\_\_ in what they're saying.

You've got to understand ...

... their logic ...

... their emotions ...

... feel their emotions ...

... and express what they are feeling \_\_\_\_\_.

- (Example of person trying to understand how the other person feels).
- You don't have truth until you can say, "This is what they are feeling."
- (Example of John and Beth).

### Conclusion

Think of the times Satan won in your life. How many times was the battleground disagreement with another human being, and your inability to be a person a truth versus defending your perspective was what left you open to attack.

When you put on the armor of God you become indestructible  
because you have no enemy.

You merely have a lot of teachers who will teach you truth.



Discussion Questions

1. How can putting on the armor of God, and particularly the belt of Truth, help you in your daily walk with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Based on the definition given in this teaching, to what degree are you a man or woman of truth? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did you learn in this teaching about understanding truth? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
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\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

4. CHALLENGE QUESTION: The next time you are in a conflict, work to understand what the other person is thinking and feeling, and try to argue their case against you.

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS:
1 areas of my life 2 one of these seven areas 3 full 4 to the death 5 standing 6 impressiveness 7 windows 8 smoke clears 9 one fourth 10 one tenth 11 understanding every perspective 12 see the others 13 belt loop 14 security 15 attached 16 some 17 right 18 right 19 truth 20 as good or better than they can

**SESSION OBJECTIVE:**

TO LEARN IF YOU ARE A MAN OF TRUTH

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Introductory Comments

- ➔ In most series, if you understand a passage better, I hold your attention, and you learned a few things, I'm pleased.
- ➔ But the armor of God is the closest thing to any passage that is the essence of who I am. The armor of God has taken over my prayer life.
- ➔ If I preach well and you listen well, my hope is that out of the cry of the heart I have heard, every day for the rest of your life, getting dressed spiritually would become as much a part of your life as getting dressed in the natural.
- ➔ When you put on the armor, you get in the situations, and you have 20-30 times in a day where it's not like you tried harder or did better, you just \_\_\_\_\_ . You know that the difference in the response was because you put on the armor that day.
- ➔ Normally when I preach, I like to give you practical application truths at a semi-dizzying pace. But I have wrestled with this truth every day and have won 10,000 battles with that truth. The pace in this series will be different than any series. I want these things to be burning in your life every day for 50 years.

John 8:42-44



*Take Notes:*

When the devil lies, he speaks his \_\_\_\_\_  
for he is a liar and the \_\_\_\_\_ of lies.

#### Why is the belt of truth the first piece of the armor of God?

- Because Satan is the father of lies and every time he speaks it's to lie.
- The worst thing about believing a lie is that you don't know it's a lie you bought into.
- We're going to go in this series to six other subjects (brief description of the other parts of the armor of God).
- If you are able to receive truth, I believe every other subject will come to you with clarity and power.
- It is the \_\_\_\_\_ piece of armor to put on.
- If he can stop you from getting the belt of truth on, he can stop you from every other piece of your inheritance.

#### Review of Last Week

- What it means to put on the belt of truth
- The belt of truth connects every perspective on an issue
- You face the choice of being a man of truth or a belt loop
- A belt loop is someone who has become attached to their perspective
- The most dangerous thing about a belt loop is they are right
- A belt loop becomes secure in their perspective

### First Application *Continued*

Truth is understanding every perspective of an issue.

- ✓ This doesn't mean agreeing with every perspective, but it does mean understanding in intimate detail everything they're thinking and feeling.
- ✓ The belt of truth is about how I respond to \_\_\_\_\_ with people.
- ✓ Why is it about disagreements? Because Satan's greatest damage in your life came through disagreements.
- ✓ (Examples)

- ✓ What about long-standing disagreements? (Examples)
- ✓ What about children, ex-wives, bosses, people that work under you?
- ✓ How long have those disagreements festered?
- ✓ When Satan wants to hurt you, cut you, stop you from fulfilling your potential in Jesus, his greatest method is people disagreeing with you.

### Two Questions

#### # 1 - Am I a man of truth?

- ✓ In every disagreement, can I finish these sentences so that the other person is \_\_\_\_\_?

- 1) What's \_\_\_\_\_ to you in this situation is ...
- 2) What you're \_\_\_\_\_ about this is ...
- 3) What \_\_\_\_\_ is ...

- ✓ If you can answer these questions to the point that they say, "Oh that's just perfect!", then you are a man of truth.
- ✓ Every disagreement that ends in your mind with issues where you say, "That person was wrong", you're not a person of truth.
- ✓ You may be right that they were wrong, but you're still not a person of truth.
- ✓ (Examples)

- ✓ When you answer those three questions, something happens in you. You quit discussing whether they were wrong and you start switching to, "What I've \_\_\_\_\_ from this...", "What I \_\_\_\_\_ from this."
- ✓ (How John deals with offended people).



*Take Notes:*

### A Belt \_\_\_\_\_ You

- Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you \_\_\_\_\_."
- What did a belt look like for a Roman soldier? They wore togas, like a full-length dress. When a Roman soldier had to go to war, he took his toga, wound it up, tucked it in, turned it into a pair of shorts, and tied a belt around so all extraneous material was restricted from movement.
- In the restricting of all extraneous material, the soldier gained great \_\_\_\_\_ in his legs!
- When you put on the belt of truth, you are restricted from all extraneous material. You can't bring up all the other times they've done this.
- You are restricted from \_\_\_\_\_, from being \_\_\_\_\_, from drawing \_\_\_\_\_ until you can answer those three questions.
- There are so many people that have built their security on, "You were wrong and that's the end of the matter." You cannot do that if you're going to be a man of truth.

- Movie Example about a debate group at a college



*Take Notes:*

- You can't begin to know truth until you get out of your belt loop - your perspective - and take all of your arguments and shoot them down yourself!

The first question again, is - "Are you a man of truth?"

The answer, for the most part - "No."

 Discussion Questions

1. How do you handle disagreements with people? What might you do differently in light of this teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Based on the definition given in this teaching, to what degree are you a man of truth?


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\_\_\_\_\_

3. What other points stood out to you in this teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

4. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Continue learning the discipline of being a man of truth in any disagreements you face this week. Argue their case until they are satisfied. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 ANSWERS:  
<sup>1</sup> responded differently <sup>2</sup> native language <sup>3</sup> father <sup>4</sup> armor <sup>5</sup> disagreements  
<sup>6</sup> pleased <sup>7</sup> important <sup>8</sup> feeling <sup>9</sup> you'd like from me <sup>10</sup> learned <sup>11</sup> understand  
<sup>12</sup> restrains <sup>13</sup> free <sup>14</sup> freedom <sup>15</sup> judging <sup>16</sup> critical <sup>17</sup> conclusions

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**SESSION OBJECTIVE:**

TO LEARN WHEN AND HOW TO BE BLUNT

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\* Introductory Comments and Review of First Two Weeks \*



*Take Notes:*

First Application of the Belt Of Truth (review)

- A belt encircles the subject, connecting every perspective of an issue.
- The belt loop is your perspective.
- Will your security be in your perspective which makes you a belt loop, or...
- Will you be a person of truth which means you understand every perspective?

Truth is understanding every perspective of an issue.

- To understand someone else's perspective, you must be able to argue their side of this disagreement until they are pleased.
- (Example of Randy and Jan)
- Usually you won't know the important issues are at first. It sometimes takes two or three times.
- When he can answer all questions, something is loosed in the heavenlies and something in her says, "He understands".
- Until you can answer the three questions out loud until the person is pleased, you can't know that you understand.

## Second Application of the Belt Of Truth

- Ephesians 6:14 - "Stand firm then, having \_\_\_\_\_ with truth."
- It's a colloquialism that is pregnant with meaning if you understand the culture. What does "girded your loins" mean?

To be \_\_\_\_\_

Until you get to the point where you are willing to be blunt,  
you cannot be a person of truth.

### Example of Job

- Job is a righteous guy. Every calamity that can happen happens to him.
- From Job 2 - 37, Job and his friends argue. Neither one does good.
- For 36 chapters, Job says, "If I had a chance to talk to God, God would have to answer a few questions."
- In Job 38, God enters the conversation: "Who is this that darkens counsel with words without knowledge? Now \_\_\_\_\_ like a man, and I will ask you and you instruct me."
- For two chapters God speaks. In Job 40, Job answers the Lord and says I shouldn't have opened my mouth. God says that's not okay. It's a key thing that God would not drop it.
- God again says, "Gird up your loins like a man".

### Example of Jeremiah

- (Review of girding up your loins)
- Jeremiah was the last prophet before a decedent nation of I srael was going into exile.
- Jeremiah didn't want to do it. In Jeremiah 1:17, God says, "Gird up your loins and arise and speak to them all which I command you."

Does the phrase "gird up your loins" mean "to be blunt"? Yes!

So what does it mean to pray,  
"Holy Spirit, gird up my loins with truth"?

In disagreements with other people,  
" \_\_\_\_\_ " is not \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✓ Just understanding where they are coming from does not make you a person of truth.
- ✓ Just doing what they want you to do, etc is not godly.
- ✓ For two sermons I have shared the first application. If your security is in defending your perspective, you can't be a person of truth.
- ✓ Now I tell you a second application. If your security is in being a \_\_\_\_\_, you cannot have that and be a person of truth.
- ✓ If you have based your security on being a nice person, you will never be able to put on the breastplate of righteousness.
- ✓ If you believe giving in to stop the conflict is a godly thing, you will never be able to put on the breastplate of righteousness.
- ✓ The longer you walk in believing that it's a good thing just to give in, the more insecure, the more confused, the more deceived, the more controlled, the more resentful you will become, until you either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ The day you buy into the belief that it is godly to give in, you have set yourself on a course for destruction.
- ✓ When you get "passive compliant", you never really do understand what the person wants and understands, they just want the conflict to end.
- ✓ When people operate in "passive compliance", they give in over and over and build a mental ledger up. When they blow up, they say, "That's it, I've given in and it's time for me to be bossy and you give in."
- ✓ Passive compliant people can be the most "controlling dominant" people, because they never were honest and thought it was a good thing. "Now it's your turn." It becomes a horrible boomerang.

Freedom From Being Passive and Compliant

- There's a completion to the process.
- When I said, "Truth is understanding every perspective on an issue", it includes them understanding your perspective.
- **Matthew 7:1-5** – Jesus said one has a speck, the other has a log. Both are pieces of wood. They are the weight of how much wrong you have in this disagreement.
  - In a normal disagreement, if I am being defensive, who do I think has the speck of sawdust? Me. Who do I think has the log? They do.
  - Who do they think has the speck of sawdust? Themselves. Who do they think has the log? You.
  - What does God think? God thinks you've both got logs.
  - Did Jesus say look at this disagreement through your perspective? No. Did Jesus say look at this disagreement through God's perspective? No. Who did Jesus say whose perspective you look at disagreements through? \_\_\_\_\_ perspective, where you've got a log and they've got a speck.
  - Is there any way out of this? Is this pretty clear?

QUESTIONSQUESTION #1

- This passage is about when I am bugged with someone. It is about when I have a conflict with someone else.
- How does this passage apply if I have no problem with a brother but he's upset with me? Most of the time, we're both mad, but sometimes out of the blue someone is upset at you.
- In verse 5, it says, "You hypocrite, \_\_\_\_\_ take the log out of your own eye."
- It has been freeing and hard for me that when people get upset with me, I gird my loins in the belt of truth and say, "I have no problem with you but you have a problem with me. Before we deal with that, figure this thing out through my perspective and then we'll talk."

### QUESTION #2

- When someone has a problem with you, how \_\_\_\_\_ do you get blunt back?
- Scripture says in Proverbs 17, "He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."
- When do you get blunt? "By your standard of measurement, it will be measured \_\_\_\_\_."
- When someone has a problem with you, if it's a minor matter and they approach it graciously then you don't make a big deal about it!
- However, when people come after you and they won't drop it - with the standard of measurement it will be measured back to you.
- When you're a person of truth, you go through life and say, "When people have problems with me and it's little and gracious, no problem." But when do you start getting blunt? When they keep \_\_\_\_\_.

### QUESTION #3

- What if you're both upset? \_\_\_\_\_, you understand their perspective.
- Verse 5 - "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of their eye, \_\_\_\_\_ ....". It's their turn!


### QUESTION #4

- How could you ever get forceful? You're such a wimp.
- Passive client people never push through to find the other person's perspective.
- Push to understand them.
- Take the force of the desire to please and become forceful with it, not just to give in but to understand and bring resolution.

\* Story of Buzi and Rachel \*

 Discussion Questions

1. In general, how **easy** or **difficult** is it for you to be blunt, and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is your reaction to the phrase, "Giving in is not Godly?" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you usually handle conflicts as compared to the way described in this teaching?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Ask God to help you in the next argument you experience to be blunt and explain your side, after you have listened to their perspective.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 ANSWERS:  
<sup>1</sup> girded your loins <sup>2</sup> blunt <sup>3</sup> gird up your loins <sup>4</sup> just giving in <sup>5</sup> nice person  
<sup>6</sup> blow up <sup>7</sup> crack up <sup>8</sup> their <sup>9</sup> first <sup>10</sup> strongly <sup>11</sup> back to you <sup>12</sup> pushing <sup>13</sup> first  
<sup>14</sup> then

**SESSION OBJECTIVE:**

TO LEARN HOW TO GET PERMISSION TO BE BLUNT

\* Review of Reactions to Last Week's Material \*



Take Notes:

One More Thing about Passive Compliant People

- ✓ Passive compliant people are defined as anyone who believes it's godly to give in on an argument rather to work it through and resolve it.
- ✓ It's not always a mousy old woman or a dear old saint, etc.
- ✓ Men can be just as passive compliant as women.
- ✓ Leaders can be just as passive compliant as followers.
- ✓ High "D" giftings can be just as passive compliant as I, S, and C.

Title of The Sermon

How To Get \_\_\_\_\_ To Be Blunt

Context

The conflicts of your life with people

Who is the person that you want to get permission from? The person you're in conflict with. How novel and extraordinary of an idea this is! I imagine that your boss wanted to hear your side, etc.

## Conflicts

### Humility + Honesty = Truth

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- If I'm in a disagreement with another individual, most of the time, does that person want to hear my side of the issue? No.
- When you are in disagreements, did the other person hunger and thirst to hear your side of the issue? No.
- What I'm talking about tonight is something that's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Usually what happens is, as long as you are being passive compliant, humble, and wanting to hear their side, their attitude usually is, "I'm glad you're being so godly about this".
- Then the switch comes, and you're thinking, "I've got the point. Now let's switch and talk about my side." You think you're the same person. They think, "Where'd your attitude go?"
- You feel dichotic in the person's response. As long as you're listening, you're the nice guy, but dare you switch to your perspective then you're an ugly, selfish, attacking person.
- Making that switch is the hardest transition in a discussion, because they have not given you permission to share your side.

How would you like to know how to get people to give you permission to be blunt and share your side?

*The only fear I have is that you might despise it and think it's so simple and that you understand it. If I put you in a conflict right now, how many of you know how to bring that conflict to the place where that person gives you permission to share your side? If you don't, when I give you these points don't let the enemy say, "That's so simple, I knew that". Say, "Simple or not, I've got to apply that."*

### First Point

Truth Is Not Proven To Be Truth Until You

### Scriptures

1. Ephesians 4:12-15 – how does Paul define an infant? I Cor 3 – “Aren’t you still infants? For since there is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ among you, doesn’t that prove you are infants?” Paul’s solution is – “I instead, \_\_\_\_\_ the truth in love, we will in all things grow up.”
2. Ephesians 4:25-27, 31 – watch the context – “in your anger, do not sin”, etc. The context is disagreements, and the solution is to speak the truth to your neighbor.
3. Psalm 15
4. Proverbs 15:13
5. Leviticus 19:17
6. Isaiah 45:19
7. Jeremiah 7:28
8. Jeremiah 9:5
9. Zechariah 8:3, 16
10. Romans 9:1
11. Galatians 4:16
12. Matthew’s Gospel – thirty times in one gospel, Jesus said ... “I \_\_\_\_\_ the truth ...”.

First point, very simple is that:

Truth is not proven to be truth until you speak it out loud.

### Second Point

What is it you have to speak out loud to prove that you have the truth?

You only have to know one word:

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”.

This is the word that proves that you have the truth.

**First Thought**

*Do you want the other person in a conflict to give you permission to be blunt or to share your side?*

- You must first prove to them that you understand where they are coming from.
- When you prove that you understand where they are coming from, two words will come out of their mouth: " \_\_\_\_\_ !"
- Implicit in that is a responsibility on their part to understand where you're coming from and permission to share your side.

**Second Thought**

*Most of us \_\_\_\_\_ we understand where they are coming from, but we've never proven it, and to prove it you must speak out loud.*

**Eight Brave Words**

" \_\_\_\_\_ . . . "

Dare you be brave enough to utter those words? The most courageous, wonderful, godly words that may ever come out of your mouth! What a vulnerability! You think you know where your wife is coming from. Prove it! You think you know where your boss is coming from. Prove it!

If you don't get this, wait until you have teenagers. You think you know where your teenagers are coming from. Dare you be willing to prove it?

Until that person says, with shock in their eyes, "I UNDERSTAND", you haven't proven anything.

### SCRIPTURES

- Proverbs 4:7
- Proverbs 4:1
- Proverbs 2:11
- Proverbs 18:2
- Proverbs 20:5
- Psalms 32:9
- Psalms 49:20
- Matthew 13:23



*Take Notes:*

### Comments on Scriptures

- ✓ You don't know what this is like because 99% of you have never said these words. You've never been given permission in a conflict in your life to give your side, but if ever you tasted that, you can't imagine how \_\_\_\_\_ you become from every attack of the enemy.
- ✓ Do you know that every single critical word that's ever come out of your mouth came out because you believed that you knew where they were coming from, and you weren't man enough to prove it.
- ✓ If today you decide to be a man ... to be willing to put your mental arrogance on the line in the very next conflict you have, don't be deceived into believing that you'll hit it the first time. You will probably miss it by a mile. (Example).

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\* Example of John and Stephen having a conflict \*

CONCLUSION

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Which comes first? Humility.

But, by itself, is humility enough to make you a person of truth?

No.

Having honesty by itself, does that mean you have the truth? No.

Humility is summed up in the phrase:

"If I \_\_\_\_\_ where you are coming from ..."

If you nail it after ten tries, then you say:

"Do you understand where \_\_\_\_\_ am coming from?"

QUESTION

What if I do understand where they are coming from,  
and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to understand where I'm  
coming from?

- First of all, 99% of the time you haven't proven that you know where they're coming from.
- In most cases, when you're dealing with anywhere near humble, godly, decent, unwarped people, if you actually prove that you know where they're coming from, something is released. (Examples)
- In a few cases, you have someone who doesn't want to know where you're coming from. Very rare, but it can happen. What scripture applies? Matthew 7:1 - "With the measure you measure, it's measured unto you."

- ❑ If you ever prove that you have the truth, and they said, "Yes, you've got it", and you said, "Now can we talk about where I'm coming from" and they didn't want to hear it, it would be so easy for you to say, "Let me get this straight. I want to know where you're coming from and you don't want to know where I'm coming from. So you aren't willing to work on this relationship at all but you want me to work on it. The measure you measure is the measure I'm measuring back to you."

\* Story of Person Correcting Pastor John \*



*Take Notes:*



Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, explain how you can get permission to be blunt in a conflict. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How easy or difficult is it for you to say, "If I understand where you're coming from" in a conflict, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which aspect of dealing with a conflict is easier for you - humility or honesty - and why?

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\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

4. CHALLENGE QUESTION: As you deal with conflicts in your life this week, try to reach a point where the other person says, "I understand!" and then is willing to hear your side.

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS:
1 Permission 2 very rare 3 Speak It Out Loud 4 quarreling 5 strife 6 speaking
7 tell you 8 understand 9 You understand! 10 think 11 If I understand where you
are coming from 12 safe 13 humility 14 honesty 15 truth 16 understand 17 I
18 they don't want

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***SESSION OBJECTIVE:***

TO ALLOW TRUTH TO BE THE FIRST RESPONSE OF YOUR HEART

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Review of Major Points So Far  
*Three Applications of the Belt of Truth*

Application # 1

- We spent two sermons covering the first application.
- A belt totally encircles the subject.
- Each belt loop represents a single perspective on that subject.
- In every conflict, you are right. You have to choose between being right and being a person of truth.
- You are not a person of truth until you understand every perspective.
- You are tested by that by saying out loud, "If I understand where you're coming from..."

Application # 2

- The phrase "gird your loins" means "to be blunt".
- You can't be a person of truth unless you have the ability to be blunt.
- If they say, "Yes, you understand", I now expect and require you to want to understand where I'm coming from.
- Humility + Honesty = Truth.

Today we're going to cover ...

Application #3

- The word " \_\_\_\_\_ " - a medical term for men and women that means the area of the body that contains all of the reproductive organs.
- Scripture tells us to gird our loins with truth, therefore the loins are the area of the body that brings forth \_\_\_\_\_.
- Children are called the fruit of our loins.

- **Hebrews 7:9-10**
  - ➔ The book of Hebrews is to explain to the Jews the difference in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.
  - ➔ In chapter 7, he goes back to the story of Abraham conquering five kings.
  - ➔ (Details of the story of Abraham destroying the five kings).
  - ➔ (Details of the story of Melchizedek).
  - ➔ Verses 9 and 10 say that Levi tithed to Melchizedek because Levi was in the loins of Abraham. Levi was Abraham's great grandson.

"Gird your loins"

What that means is your children are the reproduction on the outside of \_\_\_\_\_.

- ✓ Every detail gets reproduced in your children.
- ✓ How much control do you have over whether your child will be a boy or girl? None. Can you pre-order the color of their eyes, etc? No.
- ✓ The day their born, all of these things are genetically set. Did you have any control over that? No.
- ✓ Yes, where or from whom did they get every one of those features? From mom and dad.
- ✓ The loins represent the absence of any human ability to do, to manipulate, to control.
- ✓ It represents who you are, with no power to stop it, being reproduced or brought forth or exposed.

### Application # 3

When you gird your loins with truth, you're asking the Holy Spirit to let truth be so inside you that it is the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Have You Girded Your Loins With Truth?

- Let's say a person has a high-I "gift of exaggeration".
- Story of High-I personality types.
- Let's say you have a problem with talking and not shutting up.
- You stretch the truth many times without meaning to.
- You say, "I'm not going to exaggerate, I'm not going stretch the facts, I will resist that and fight that, I will make myself stick to the facts."
- If you do that, have you girded your loins with truth, yes or no?
- Let's suppose you have problems with pride and defensiveness and arrogance. You get in conflicts and it's so tempting to be defensive and to argue your side. You say, "I will not argue my side, I will make myself listen." If you do that, have you girded your loins with truth? Yes or no.
- Answer: \_\_\_\_\_.
- You can avoid issues. It's so easy to think your feelings aren't important.
- If you say, "No, I am going to be honest, I will make myself deal honestly", have you girded your loins with truth? \_\_\_\_\_.
- John's testimony of fighting exaggeration.
- If you are a defensive, arrogant person, you can ask the Lord to gird your loins, and the first response of your heart will be, "I really want to know where you're coming from." If you're a passive compliant, you can ask the Lord to gird your loins, and you'll do the humble servant thing and then say, "Now we're going to talk about my side."
- I want my children to be a man and woman of truth. When I pray this, I know that nothing I try to control can change the fact that they will be people of truth to the degree that I am. You can see it now.
- **Psalm 51:6**

### Four Other Thoughts

#### # 1 - Scriptures I pray when I put on the Belt of Truth

(Each scripture fit into one of the three applications of the Belt of Truth)

- # 2 - Two Books by Dr. William Backus - "Telling \_\_\_\_\_  
The Truth" and "Telling \_\_\_\_\_ The Truth"
- ✓ Telling Yourself the Truth will change your life if you're passive compliant.
  - ✓ Telling Each Other the Truth will change everyone's life.
- # 3 - "I \_\_\_\_\_ ..."
- ✓ Mylon asked, "Tell me how you pray".
  - ✓ **Hebrews 9:15** - the word "receive".
  - ✓ I begin by getting full of the Spirit and then move into the Belt of Truth. I'll pray different scriptures different days.
  - ✓ Usually about a third of the way in, I switch from asking to where I begin to say, "I receive the girding of my loins with truth, etc ..."
- # 4 - "Holy Spirit, \_\_\_\_\_"
- ✓ **Ephesians 1:13** - the Holy Spirit has sealed us guaranteeing us our eternal inheritance on the day of redemption.
  - ✓ Before I leave the belt of truth, I say, "Seal today the belt of truth around me."
  - ✓ When the Holy Spirit seals that, there's no demon, no angel, no human being that can unlock the belt of truth from my waist.

 Discussion Questions

1. How do you pray the Belt of Truth? What did you learn in this teaching that might help in the application of the Belt of Truth? \_\_\_\_\_


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2. To what degree is truth the first response of your heart, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

3. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Pray this week and ask the Holy Spirit to make you a man of truth, and to make the first response of your heart the truth. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 ANSWERS:  
<sup>1</sup> loins <sup>2</sup> children <sup>3</sup> what's inside you <sup>4</sup> first response of your heart <sup>5</sup> No <sup>6</sup> No  
<sup>7</sup> Yourself <sup>8</sup> Each Other <sup>9</sup> Receive <sup>10</sup> Seal