

Bay City Wesleyan Church
March 1, 2020

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Sunday Morning 03-01-2020

HOLY LOVE'S HEALING POWER transforms us as we own our need for it.
<http://bible.com/events/7079849>

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In a society where substance abuse spreads like wildfire, few of us are untouched by addiction. We may not have the classic "loud" addictions of alcohol, drugs, sex or porn, but most of us fall into the trap of the more dangerous and devious ones. Our relationship to food, work, or success, for example, can serve the same purpose as oxycodone for a drug addict. Under each of these desires gone wild is the godly longing for the goodness and restoration that Jesus has in store for us. We need to own this yearning for holy love to experience its healing liberation.

Ephesians 4:17-25 NIV

<small>17</small> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <small>18</small> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <small>19</small> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. <small>20</small> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <small>21</small> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <small>22</small> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <small>23</small> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <small>24</small> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. <small>25</small> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.4.17-25.NIV>

Having put away falsehood as an entire way of life, live speaking the truth... (David L Thompson)

Truth-telling universally fosters health. Falsehood universally destroys relationships.

Citation: David L Thompson & Gina Thompson Eickoff. God's Healing for Hurting Families: Biblical Principles for Reconciliation and Recovery (Kindle Locations 905-906).

How will the chains of falsehood ever be broken? How will we be liberated?

Jesus's life, death, and resurrection break the chains of falsehood. We can build lives of speaking the truth in love.

Holy love carries healing power. We can be released from the lies.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Bravely confess your hurts, habits, and hang-ups to fellow followers of Jesus.

You need to find a safe group of fellow Jesus followers with whom you can confess your wounds and worries.

James 5:16 NLT

16</small> Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

<https://bible.com/bible/116/jas.5.16.NLT>

Carefully choose the Christians with whom you'll confess.

Look for persons committed to speaking the truth in love to each other.