

'Speak The Truth in Love'

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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One of my favorite TV game shows in the early 1960's was called "To Tell the Truth." The host of the show would have four celebrity panelists. Three contestants (the "team of challengers," each an individual or pair) had to identify the "central character" whose unusual occupation or experience had been read aloud by the show's host. The panelists had to question the contestants; the two imposters would lie whereas the "central character" must tell the truth.

Often, the imposters looked and sounded so convincing that it was difficult to tell who was telling the truth. Prize money was awarded to the contestant receiving the most votes. It was a very popular game show that taught viewers not to believe first impressions but to ask the right questions.

These days, individuals are lauded and rewarded for their ability to be deceptive in avoiding the consequences of their actions. On the other hand, Gos requires us to be truthful and not deceptive because Satan is the father of deception. Millions of lives have been lost forever because of deception.

Sometimes you may be in a dilemma, wondering if you should tell the truth. You should ask yourself: Will God bless me by being deceitful? Will the Lord who loves the truth bless my kind deeds to withhold the truth because it may hurt? Ask yourself prayerfully, "What would Jesus do?" Just think, if we lived in a world where truth was spoken and received, would there be less corruption?

The sad reality is that every child born is prone to lying and deceiving because of the thought of unfavorable actions by those in authority. If the consequences of being deceptive and lying prohibit a person from going to heaven, pray tell... then let us speak the truth in love! It may hurt a person's pride at first, but in the long term, it will be their saving grace from greater devastation. There are times your silence can be golden.

Let us speak the truth in love to one another. Ephesians 4:25 RSV *Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

According to Revelations 21:8 RSV, deceivers and liars will not fare well in God's judgment of every man's deeds.

Celebrate with us at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life, and enjoy a cup of

coffee and cookies with friends. The Chapel is a place for *needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace*. You can view our worship services on YouTube at Villages Community Chapel, San Jose, CA or at villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club