

Chronicle

SPEAK the TRUTH in LOVE

Christ-likeness is the mark of true spirituality. And love is the mark of Christ-likeness. We can only practice love in the context of relationships among people, who, because of their differences, will sooner or later find themselves in conflict with each other. Conflicts are inevitable and sometimes, necessary. They give us an opportunity to learn and to grow in Christlikeness.

Many of us deal with conflicts in different ways. Some think that the most loving way to deal with conflict is to avoid every sign of it. They keep silent for fear of creating tensions. Others flatter. They only say things that you want to hear from them. The result is shallow and superficial relationships. Still others choose to attack by blurting out careless and destructive words or by gossip or slander.

In reality, it is not easy to control the tongue. James 3:8-10 says, "But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way." Why? Because what comes out of the mouth is just an overflow of the heart (Matthew 12:34-35). Hurting people say hurtful words; bitter people speak bitter words. This is why in order for us to change our tongue, we need Jesus to change our hearts.

Do you notice that when you speak ill of somebody, you find yourself getting angrier at him/her? While the heart influences the mouth, the mouth also impacts the heart. Therefore, we also have to do our part by controlling our tongue. Our words are important because God will hold us accountable for everything that we say or fail to say (Matthew 12:36-37) and because our words will ultimately affect other people's lives either negatively or positively (Proverbs 18:21).

As Christians we've got to impact our relationships in a way that would please our Master. To do this, we must learn how to develop deep and meaningful relationships by learning how to speak the truth in love. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:15, "speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ."

How do we speak the truth in love? The Bible provides us a perfect example in 2 Samuel 12. The prophet Nathan confronted David after the latter committed adultery and murder, by weaving an amazing story of a shepherd and his guest who demanded his only valued possession—his ewe lamb. When he was done telling the story, he pointed out David's mistakes. In the end, David responded with: "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan was able to effectively lead David to repentance but he was honest enough to say that though he had been forgiven, he would still have to face the consequences of his wrongdoings (2 Samuel 12:13-14).

When faced with conflicts, do not be quick to react. Slow down and think first. Process the situation and assess your motives. If you want to correct the person out of ill-motives, don't speak at all. Your heart must be motivated by love in restoring the person. Carefully plan how you will say it, when and where. Choose your words carefully. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29) Choose words that build up and not tear down and deliver them in a gentle and loving manner.

Sean Touhy says it best: "A little bit of attention and a kind word—that's how little it takes to affect someone's life for the better." Show love by speaking words that are true and that build others up in Christlikeness!

God's Gift of Eternal Life is for YOU!



GOD LOVES YOU and desires that you:

Have eternal life with Him.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Have an abundant and meaningful life.

"Jesus said, '... I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.'" John 10:10

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

Man has a SIN problem that SEPARATES him from GOD.

Everyone has sinned. **"... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23**

The penalty for sin is DEATH. *"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23 (also ESV, NIV)*

The Bible talks about two kinds of death. The first death is **physical**. The second death is **spiritual** or eternal separation from God.

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and ALL LIARS, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death." Revelation 21:8

Since sin separates man from God, what is the solution to his problem?

JESUS CHRIST is God's ONLY way to heaven.

He is the ONLY way. *"Jesus said... 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" John 14:6*

He COMPLETELY PAID the penalty of your sins.

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all your sins." Colossians 2:13 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..." 1 Peter 3:18

The RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST assures us of Eternal Life.

Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised on the third day

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

His resurrection proves that He is the Son of God, the Messiah, the only Savior.

"... Concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord..." Romans 1:3-4

Jesus promises Eternal Life.

"Jesus said... 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die..." John 11:25-26

However, merely knowing what Jesus Christ has done for us is not enough.

If we must place our FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST to save us.

You are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD - not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

To be saved by faith means to **TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE** to save you. Good works are not the means to salvation; rather, they are the byproducts or evidence of your salvation.

2. Prove the sincerity of your faith by turning away from a life of sin.

"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. A person who genuinely asks for forgiveness will seek to change his ways." Acts 26:20 (NIV)

God knows we are not perfect, but the sincerity of our faith will move us to live lives that show our gratitude to God for His free gift of heaven.

You can pray this simple prayer to express your faith in Jesus Christ and to receive Him into your heart as your Lord and Savior. You only have to pray this prayer once, but with sincerity, because when He enters your life, he will never leave you.

PRAYER: Lord, Jesus Christ... I admit I am sinner, I confess and I repent of all my sins. I believe by faith that You, Jesus, died for my sins, You were buried and You rose again from the dead. I claim Your promise of forgiveness and accept Your gift of eternal life. I thank You for dying on the cross for my sins, I thank You for forgiving my sins and I thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.



REV EDMUND CHAN

Edmund Chan is an expositor of the Scriptures and a mentor of leaders. As the Leadership Mentor of Covenant Evangelical Free Church, his insightful biblical teachings have made him a sought-after speaker in different major cities, often with invitations 3-5 years ahead. A widely influential Singaporean pastor, Edmund is an esteemed mentor to key Christian leaders both in Singapore and internationally. He also serves on the advisory councils of several Christian organisations.

Upon return from his first sabbatical in 1995, Edmund launched the annual Intentional Disciple-Making Church (IDMC) Conference. Started as a simple seminar with 320 participants, it has since become a sold-out conference imparting cutting-edge disciple-making teachings each year to 2,500 participants from over 190 churches in about 20 countries.

He has also authored several books, including *Growing Deep in God* (2002); *Mentoring Paradigms* (2008); *Growing Deep In Faith* (2010) and *Cultivating Your Inner Life* (2011). Edmund completed his two-year Masters degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (USA) in less than nine months and graduated summa cum laude. He is married to Ann and they have two teenage daughters, Amanda and Belicia.



ALL D12/DGroup Leaders and potential leaders are encouraged to attend this coming

January 27 & 28, a 2-day **LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** simultaneously LIVE from CCF ST. FRANCIS SQUARE.

Conference will start 8 am and ends at 5 pm
Please file your leave in advance.

Weekly Activities		DGroup Malaybalay	DGroup Valencia, CMU & Alanib	JZone DGroup & Activities
16	Office Closed	<u>Small Group with Celsa</u> @ Ayala's residence 7 pm mixed group	<u>Dgroup Jzone CMU</u> @ CMU Campus 6 pm Leaders <u>Women's BS with Lingling</u> @ Valencia Central School 1 pm	JZone High (CCF) With Cassy & Carlos @ Mint Leaf Café 5:00 – 6:30 pm
Mon				
17	Office Hours: 8:00am to 5:00 pm	<u>Dgroup with Donald & Marie</u> @ Antipasado's Residence 6:00 pm Mixed	<u>Dgroup with Mulong & Inday</u> @ Hagkol 6:30 pm Couples	Believing Class with Ate Ann JZone Center 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Tuesday				
18	Prayer Watch 5:30-6:30 pm	<u>Bible Study with Francis</u> @ Tinsay Farm 11:00 am Employees <u>Small Group with Necy</u> @ SS Room 6:30 pm <u>Small Groups JZone BSU</u> @ BSU Grounds 7 pm	<u>Small Group with Neil & Malou</u> @ MKAVI Alanib – 5 pm	Small Groups @ BSU Campus 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesday				
19	Office Closed	<u>Men's Group with Neil</u> @ Abejuela Residence 7 am <u>Bible Study with Kraig</u> @ Roque Farm 4 pm Employees <u>Bible Study with Doc Su</u> @ BBH Compound 6 pm Mixed <u>DGroup with Norenz & Eileen</u> @ Gamo Residence 7 pm <u>DGroup with Titot & Necy</u> @ Fortich Residence 7 pm	<u>Bible Study with Tino</u> @ Valencia 6 pm <u>Dgroup with Rory & Dawn</u> @ 19 th Tee, Malingon 7:00 pm	Believing Class BNHS with Charie JZone center 4:30-5:30 pm
Thursday				
20	Office Closed	<u>Women's Group with Elaine</u> @ Tinsay's Residence 2 pm <u>DGroup with Cocoi & Cynthia</u> @ BB Café 6:30 pm		Growing Class with Ate Iris JZone Center 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday				
21	GLC Level 2 3:00 pm GLC Level 3 1:00 pm		<u>DGroup with Raffy</u> @ CCF Alanib 2 pm	<u>JZone Singles & Leaders</u> <u>Bible Study</u> @ Damasco's Residence 10:00 am – 12 nn <u>JZone Skills enhancement</u> Music, Arts, Dance & Media @ 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Saturday				
22	<u>NxtGen Sunday School</u> Sunday School Rooms 10:00 am – 11:30 am	<u>Visayan Worship</u> Sunday School Hall 8:00 am – 9:30 am <u>English Worship</u> Worship Hall 10:00 am – 11:30 am	<u>Visayan Worship</u> CCF Alanib 10:00 am – 11:30 am <u>English Worship</u> Valencia Worship Hall 10:00 am – 11:30 am	<u>JZone Alanib Bible Study</u> @ Kuya Raffy's Residence 4:00 pm
Sunday				

to make Christ-committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers

