



Part 2 – Sisters and Brothers

INTRODUCTION—We need each other whether we like it or not

The Family Business: Speaking the truth in love

Ephesians 4:11-25; James 5:16

- Truth without love is not fully God's truth; love without truth is not fully God's love
- Maturity is a process of transforming our mental and emotional habits and inner convictions to align with the enormous love God has for us in Christ
- As psycho-social beings made in God's image, we do not mature in isolation

Look to the Book: The transforming power of honesty

Ephesians 5:8-21

- When I do things in the dark, not only can no one else see, I can't see either
- Secrets have the power to divide my identity and keep a part of me disconnected from God's grace and love of me
- The role of safe siblings is to help me emotionally grasp that the real me is loved, and I am secure because our Father, with his grace and power, is changing me
- God's grace reflecting off the dark, dead places of my life has the power to be a light of hope to others living in the dark

Take Out: I'll have that to go please...

1. I can be encouraged that honest relationships are possible by the examples of people in Scripture.
Matthew 13:16-28; Luke 22:54-62; Galatians 2:11-14
2. I need to realize that being honest with someone is not about another person seeing the real me, but me seeing the real me.
2 Timothy 3:13
3. Mature spiritual leaders modeling grace and commitment make it safe to be honest by leading the way in being real.
Ephesians 4:11-14
4. Four things I can remember when someone shares honestly:
 - a. Be slow to speak and quick to listen;
 - b. Ask the heart questions, not the hard questions;
 - c. Do the plank-eye process before speaking the truth in love;
 - d. Help the person connect with God's heart by praying with them if that can be done in a natural and relational way.
James 1:19; Matthew 7:1-6

CONCLUSION – Lessons from Lego



HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Review the message together. What one thing encouraged or challenged you?
2. "WHIVSIV or What happens in Vegas..." Why is this marketing hook so attractive to many? What might the long-term downsides be of living that way?

Look to the Book...

3. Read Ephesians 4:11-25. List all the qualities outlined in this passage of a healthy and maturing community? Do your best to describe the ideal Home Church community based on this passage? What dreams do you have for Home Church this year? What obstacles might need to be overcome to achieve this vision of community?
4. Read James 5:16. What would it look like for someone to actually practice this verse with another? What would it take to make this not just an ideal, but something normal for those in your Home Church? How might God work through this kind of honest sharing and prayer for each other?

So What?...

5. Using the Lego illustration, how many people are you connected with that know the real you and you would count as a true "brother" or "sister"?
6. Pray for God to help each member to more deeply know God as Father and his love. Also pray that God will lead your group to know how to increasingly develop safe relationships so people can feel free to be real.