

Love Truth

#525, Week of 10-7-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

To encourage them, before Jesus went to the cross, to the grave, and then to heaven, He made a promise to His weary and heartbroken disciples. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17). This promise indicates an important attribute of the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of truth.

The devil was and is averse to truth. Jesus indicates this in a remark to certain religious leaders. "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44).

Politicians, business people, computer analysts, and construction workers, should love truth. Here are the alternatives. The devil is a liar. He fathers lies. The Holy Spirit loves truth. He fathers truth. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we love truth. We do not say to someone answering the phone, "Tell them I'm not here." The Spirit of truth says, "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).

Be True

#526, Week of 10-14-2018

Dr. Dennis Prutow

What is the purpose of an oath or a vow? "Men swear by one greater than themselves and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute" (Hebrews 6:16).

God confirmed His promise to Abraham with an oath. "By Myself I have sworn," declares the Lord, "I will greatly bless you" (Genesis 22:16 and 17). The New Testament verifies this. "When God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself" (Hebrews 6:13). God interposed "an oath" (Hebrews 6:17).

Frivolous oaths and vows do not confirm our words. I swear on a stack of Bibles. Does the strength of our word depend upon the number of Bibles in the stack? Cross my heart and hope to die. Will we be struck dead if we are not true?

Lawful vows imposed by proper authorities are stabilizing. They call us to truth and fidelity. They remind us to be true. "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it (Deuteronomy 23:21). Are you a husband or wife? Keep your marriage vows. Do you serve on a jury? Remember your oath. Are you a church pastor,

attorney, or physician? Consider your professional vows. Are you an elected official? Think about your oath of office. Be true to your word.

Covenant Love

#527, Week of 10-21-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Covenants are agreements. Sometimes they are one way streets. When you buy property, you agree to applicable covenants. This may mean you cannot build a store, drill a well, put up a fence, or sell water from a stream on the property.

God's arrangement with us is a covenant. First, God loves His people. "The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers" (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

Second, God desires the response of love from His people. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

Third, God gives His people a way to display their love. "He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments" (Deuteronomy 4:13).

When we come to God through Jesus Christ, we agree to the covenant. We trust the death of Christ as the only adequate payment for our sins, mistakes, and errors. "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many" (Mark 14:24). We also follow Jesus. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

Love in Our Hearts

#528, Week of 10-28-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

The glory of God filled the sanctuary. The priests retreated from their places of ministry. King Solomon dedicated the new temple with a display of God's approval. Then Solomon offered this prayer. "May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself" (1 Kings 8:57-58).

Jesus Christ answers Solomon's prayer. First, the great Christian confession is simple. "Jesus is Lord" (Romans 10:9). Second, Jesus came into the world to be God with us. "'Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us'" (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23).

Third, after His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven to sit on the throne of God, Christ pours out His Holy Spirit “that He may incline our hearts to Himself.” The Holy Spirit gives us what we need, a whole new disposition and attitude of heart. He pours God’s love into our hearts (Romans 5:5).

This love, produced by the Sprit, is a new inclination of heart. We experience the power and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. We freely embrace the good things of God. We freely serve others. “Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power” (Psalm 110:3).
