

A Christian's Position and Disposition

Eph. 4:15

Introduction:

- A. Some of meanest, discourteous, and inconsiderate people are doctrinally sound.
- B. Some of sweetest, kindest and loving people are doctrinally dangerous.
- C. Many, however, are “speaking the truth in love” as Lord commands.
- D. All must be careful that we are sound in two ways:

Discussion:

I. We Must Be Sound In Our Position. (“Speaking the TRUTH”).

- A. Scriptural position on the **plan of salvation**.
 - 1. Faith in Christ (John 8:36, 37). - Jew unsound regardless of attitude.
 - 2. Repentance. (Acts 2:38). - Universalist unsound regardless of attitude.
 - 3. Baptism. (1 Pet. 3:21). - Most Protestants unsound regardless of attitude.
- B. Scriptural position on **the church**.
 - 1. Its oneness. (Eph. 4:4).
 - 2. Its identity. - Protestants and Catholics unsound regardless of attitude.
 - 3. It's work. (Eph. 4:12).
 - 4. Its worship. (John 4:24).
- C. Scriptural position on **Christian's general conduct**.
 - 1. High morals (Eph. 5:3)
 - 2. Marriage - divorce - remarriage” (Matt. 19:9).
 - 3. Women's role (1 Tim. 2:9-15)

II. We Must Be Sound In Our Disposition. (“in LOVE”; cf. 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

- A. “Suffereth long” (v. 4) - Not ignoring sin but patient in correction.
- B. “Kind” (v. 4) - cf. 1 Pet. 3:8 - Truth does not demand “harshness.
- C. “Envieth not” (v. 4). - Petty envy trouble many congregations.
- D. “Vaunteth not itself”(v. 4) - Not conceited.
- E. “Doth not behave itself unseemingly” (v. 5) - Too many behave unbecoming to Christian.
- F. “Seeketh not her own” (v. 5) - If **I** do not get credit or if its not **my** idea - forget it.
- G. “Not easily provoked”. (v. 5) - Carries feeling around on shoulder.
- H. “Thinketh no evil” (v. 5) - “is not ready to suspect evil” (Margin) - cf. Man with wheelbarrow.
- I. “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth” (v. 6 - Never happy to see one sin but sad.
- J. “Bearth all things” (v. 7) Places best construction on actions - “Look at that woman He,s been running around with.”

Conclusion:

- A. Careful to be right in every position.
- B. But, not careless about every disposition.