

Facing Our Future

***"Grace and Truth Can -- and
Must -- Go Together"
Ephesians 4:15***



INTRO:

OUR VISION: HOW TO BE AN ISLAND OF SANITY?

1. Facing Reality As It Is

2. Devoting Ourselves to GRACE

3. Devoting Ourselves to TRUTH-- *We reject the idea that to demonstrate love and grace to someone means that we dispense with our commitment to moral standards, and approve of any- and every- thing. We also reject the idea that a commitment to moral stances means that we must then condemn or dissociate with those who disagree with us, or embody the immoral behavior we stand against. Since Jesus was known — and criticized for — fellowshiping with the “tax collectors and sinners” of his day, it would be un-Christlike for us to do anything less. We are committed to speaking truth in a world where truth is in short supply. Our truth is anchored in the revelation of God in His Word, through Christ, and the created world.*

PRINCIPLES FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE:

1. Today's world tries to force us into _____ (v 15)

**2. "Speaking the truth in love" doesn't mean _____
_____ (Eph 4:29-32, Ja 1:19)**

**3. Our goal should be to have _____ not _____
(Mt 7:1-5, Pr 19:2, Pr 18:17)**

4. We can have conviction about "the truth" yet _____
_____ (*Pr 3:7, Pr 26:12, 1 Cor 13:8-12*)

5. We have _____ how to do this (*Lk 19:1-10, 5:27-31*)

6. If we apply this verse, we will _____ (*v 15*)