

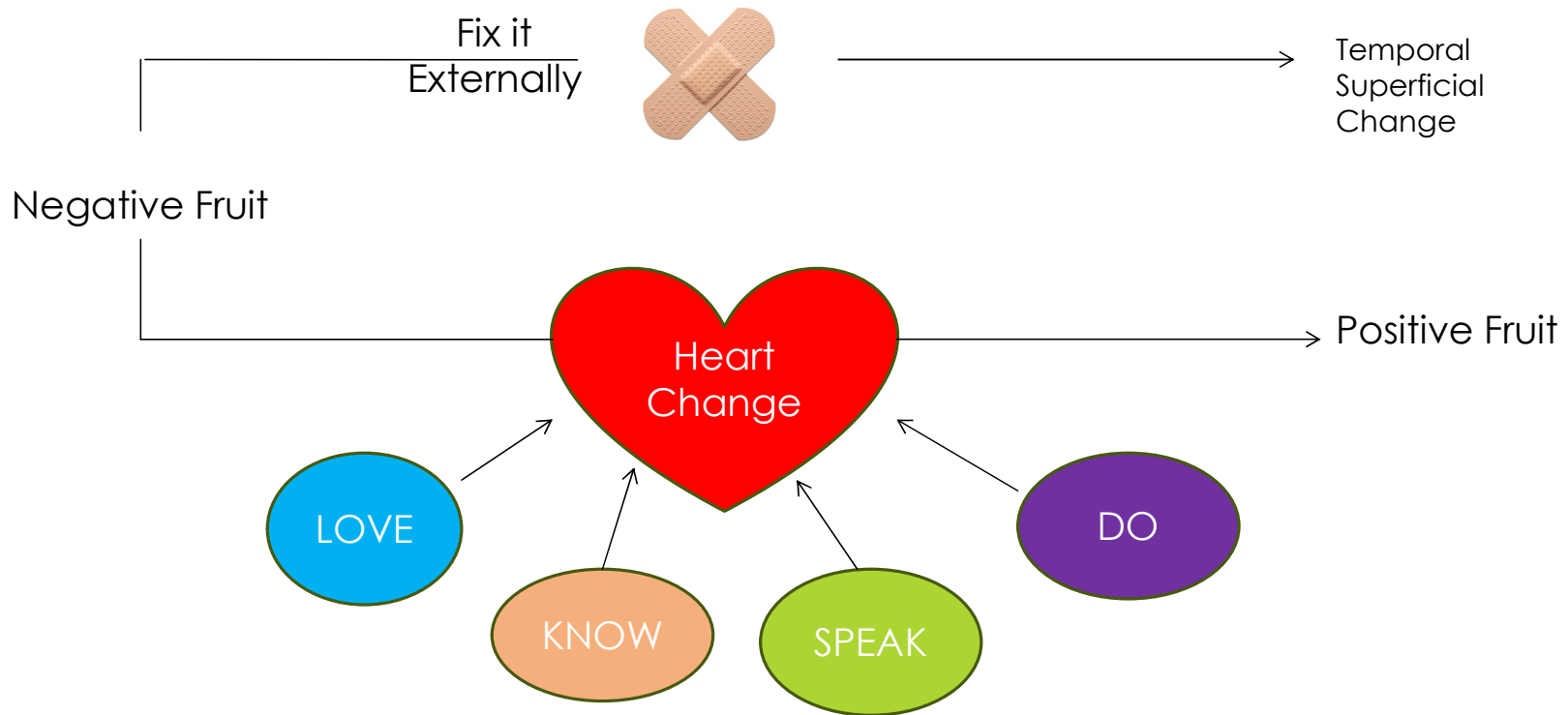
The Goals and Process of Speaking the Truth in Love

Instruments in the Redeemer's hands
Chapters 11 and

Review: Bringing it all together

- The **Glory of God** in Christ, our Savior and Redeemer **is Central**, and **worshipping** Him is the most important goal as we minister to others
- The Holy Spirit applying **Hope** and **Truth** in Christ is the source of power to overcome the reality of sin and its personal impact on our lives
- Counsel is not the cure---Christ is. People find ultimate help in a **Person**—the only unique person who has the power to save us in our struggle is Jesus Christ. We don't offer formulas, we offer a Savior!
- Heart change through the paradigm: **LOVE KNOW SPEAK DO**
- **LOVE** is the Foundation. We love by **Entering** a person's world, **Incarnating** the Love of Christ, **Identify** with their Suffering, and **Accept** with an Agenda to see Christ formed in them through real Change
- Suffering has a Purpose: **To be comforted** and **to comfort** others leading to lasting hope in this life and for eternity

The Paradigm: Love, Know, Speak, Do



SPEAK: A Starting Premise – The LORD Confronts us with the Person of Christ

- The LORD creates all things through the Power of His Word.
- The LORD speaks to Adam in the Garden, expressing His will in a relationship of fellowship between God and man.
- The LORD speaks judgment and covenant: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.
- The LORD speaks to Moses, communicating His will and establishing His Righteous Law
- The LORD speaks through His chosen leaders and prophets, establishing his everlasting covenants
- The LORD speaks through His Son Jesus Christ, the fullest revelation and expression of who HE is.

The Foundation for “Speaking the Truth in Love”

Confrontation and Rebuke

Leviticus 19:15-18

How does this passage serve as the foundation for confrontation?

How are “Truth” and “Love” related to each other?

The First and Second Great Commandments

- Matt 22: 37 command to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all you mind”
- “I am the Lord” repeated to emphasize ***Submission to Him***
 - What does this say about our failure to confront one another?
- 1 John 3:11-20; 4:7-21
 - How is the Second Great Command related to the First?

Scripture Teaches us about SIN

- ***Sin is: REBELLION***
- ***Sin produces: FOOLISHNESS***
- ***Sin renders us INCAPABLE***

- ***REBUKE: “bringing truth to where change is needed”***
 - ***Correction seen as a Grace from a Loving Father***
 - ***Participating as “Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands”***
 - ***Principle and Obstacles***
 - ***Lack of Love***

An Uncomfortable Truth

- “The truth is we fail to confront, not because we love others too much, but because we love *ourselves* too much.”
- The hardships of honesty
- “The depth of love in a relationship can be judged by the degree of honesty that exists.”

Confrontation

- Our Moral Responsibility: Confrontation as one of the cords of a strong relationship
“The Model here is ongoing honesty in an ongoing relationship.”
- “...so that you will not share in his guilt” explicitly means there is a moral obligation involved
- “Rebuke does not mean that our love is conditional. However, the self-sacrificing love of this passage exists at the intersection of patient grace and intolerance for sin.”
- The Love of the Cross of Christ

Confrontation's Regularity

- “A Constant Conversation Model”
- Confrontation as an ongoing normal part of our relational experience
- “From the Bible’s perspective, a good relationship always grows in its ability to recognize, confront, and deal with the truth.”
- “The person who has made honest, humble, loving rebuke a part of his daily relationships (as a giver and a receiver) will be clear and comfortable when he confronts a person in a more structured setting.” (Counselling and Making Disciples)

Our Failures to Confront

- We Fail to confront in love because we have yielded to subtle and passive forms of hatred
- Subtle Forms of Hatred: “No neutral ground”
 - Favoritism
 - Bearing a grudge
- Active Forms of Hatred:
 - Injustice
 - Gossip
 - Revenge

Confrontation recognizes our identity as God's children

- I am the Lord's. They are the Lord's. The situation is the Lord's.
- Biblical Confrontation is never motivated by impatience, frustration, hurt, or anger
 - i.e. How we confront is related to Why we confront—What is our motive?
- Confrontation does not force a person to deal with you, but places him before the Lord

Foundational First Imperative LOVE

Starting with Your Own Heart

- If I don't start with my own heart and fail to Love as the motive:
 - Moments of ministry may turn into moments of anger
 - Personalize what is not personal
 - Be adversarial in my approach
 - Confuse my opinion with God's will
 - Settle for quick solutions that do not address the heart (recall diagram)
- Reminder: Closing The GAP Between our ***Formal Theology and our Functional Theology***

The Right Goals

- What is God seeking to do through our humble, loving, honest words of rebuke?
 - The Deceitfulness of Sin
 - Wrong and unbiblical thinking
 - Emotional thing
 - My view of life (God, self, others, the solution) tends to be shaped more by my experiences
- Goals: Seeing in the Mirror of God's Word AND Becoming an agent of repentance (Heart Change that leads to Life Change)

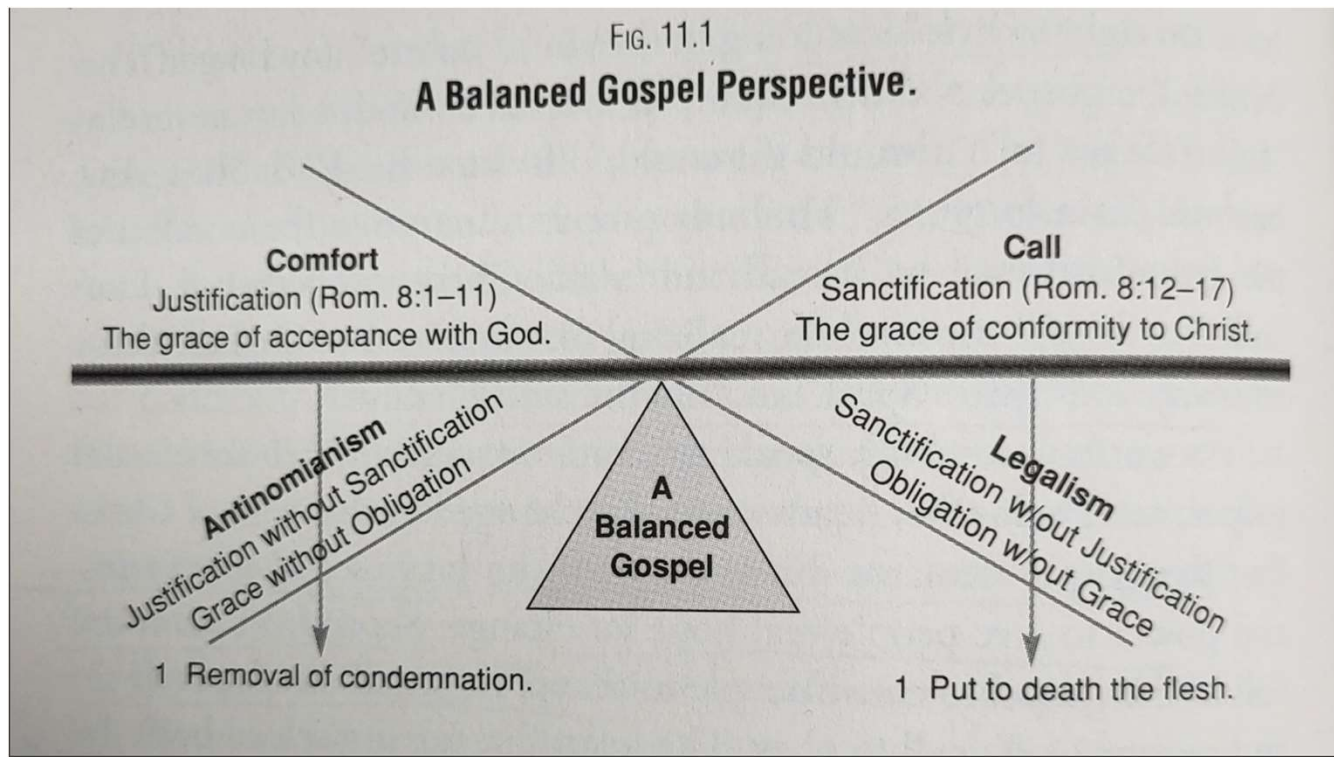
The Primary Confrontation: *The Grace of the Gospel*

- “Love is what drove God to send and sacrifice his Son. Love led Christ to subject himself to a sinful world and the horrors of the cross. Love is what causes him to seek and save the lost, and to persevere until each of his children is transformed into his image.”
- “The grace of the gospel is what turns our hearts, because the gospel is God’s magnificent promise of forgiveness in Christ.”

SPEAK: Romans 8:1-17

- The Comfort of the Gospel:
 - **The Work of Christ has removed the sentence of condemnation that was on our heads because of our sin**
 - **The promised Comforter: The Holy Spirit**
- **“To Paul, grace leaves us obligated to deal rigorously with the sin that grace addresses.”**
- **The ongoing work of God in the believer’s life is to eradicate sin**
- **I am obligated to participate in the Holy Spirit’s “search and destroy mission”**
- **The heart that has embraced both the hope (comfort) and the obligation (call) can receive honest words of confrontation**

A Balanced Gospel Perspective



The Process of Speaking the Truth in Love

- **1. Consideration:** What does the person need to see that he or she is not seeing? (Examine with biblical eyes)

5 questions:

- What was going on?
- What were you thinking and feeling as it was going on?
- What did you do in response?
- Why did you do it? What were you seeking to accomplish?
- What was the result?

2. Confession

- Confession is both difficult and essential
- Taking responsibility—reminding people that their hearts and lives belong to the Lord, and misplaced worship lies beneath sins of behavior
- Transparency and Trust happens in an atmosphere of mutual humility before the Lord

3. Commitment

- Previous steps were part of “Putting off” aspects of Eph 4:22-24
- Commitment is the first step of “Putting on” phase of repentance
- Don’t soften God’s call for concrete commitments of heart and life
- Commitments are God-ward—not horizontal commitments to one another
- “What’s in it for me” commitments = old idolatry in a new form.
God’s Glory is at stake and is the foundational motive to strive for

4. Change

- Commitment focuses on the “what”. Change focuses on the “how”.

Horizontal Trust is the goal – I hear, understand, and can be trusted

Vertical Hope is the goal – Christ the Word say: Hear me. Trust me.
Follow me.

Commitment to God’s Process of Change – Time is an element of trust

“Love that is not guided by truth ceases to be love because it is divorced from God’s agenda.”

2 Samuel 12:1-7

Confrontation: Interaction versus Declaration

- Confrontation should always begin with interaction, but there will be times when you are called to minister to someone who is stubborn, rebellious, and proud. (i.e. Give and take isn't possible)
- Bold pronouncement and exhortation to respond is necessary
 - Reserve this option ONLY if attempts at heartfelt interaction and examination has been thoroughly attempted and met with a stubborn refusal to listen and consider—it is reserved for the stiff-necked and hard-hearted

Review: Accept With Agenda

Aspect of LOVE in Know, Love, Speak, Do

- Premise: “The grace that adopts me into God’s family is not a grace that says I am okay... as we enter God’s family, we are in need of radical personal change. God’s acceptance is not a call to relax, but to work.
- Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”
- Grace leads to a process of change. We are justified by grace—the basis of our new identity, but now we must also be sanctified by grace—that is we are to be changed by it. Dying to the old and putting on the new. This is a process and time is an element...as is suffering.
- So we sturdily refuse to condemn, but we also refuse to condone. Heart change leads to changed thoughts, words, behaviors and actions.
- “Relationships built this way become places where God’s work can thrive. People are renewed, restored, rebuilt, and refined; where God is central and given the glory that is his due”

Concluding Thoughts

“It is a sweet grace when we are surrounded by people who love us enough to confront us – who are unwilling to let us stay lost, blind, confused, rebellious, and wandering away. It is a sign of God’s covenant faithfulness when he sends people to help us see and repent.”

“It is terrible when we see wrong going on but trim the truth because loving, humble rebuke takes us beyond the borders of our safe lives and casual relationships. These responses are the fruit of self-love that has replaced a love for God. The ministry of loving , humble, biblical truth speaking always begins with examining our own hearts”

“God is taking rebellious, self-absorbed people and changing them into those who pursue holiness for the sake of his glory, even as they suffer in a fallen world.”