

“Building God’s Heart into CBC: Loving Others Part 3”

John 13:34-35; I Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:15

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I. God’s expectations are that:

- A. We would be recognized as Christ-followers because of our love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

- B. We would “love one another deeply, from the heart.” (I Peter 1:22)

II. The Problem: Our lack of honesty hinders our love for one another. (Ephesians 4:15)

- A. The consequences of the lack of honesty in relationships:
 - 1. We settle for shallow relationships and token unity.

 - 2. We give the devil opportunities to cause divisions.

- B. The reasons why we are not honest with one another:
1. We don't like conflict.
 2. We don't want to be judged or misunderstood.
 3. We are concerned it will make the situation worse.
- C. The real reason why we're not honest is rooted in a heart that is focused on self rather than God.

III. The Solution: How do we find the courage to speak the truth in love to one another?

- Solution 1 Find our worth, value and significance from who we are in Christ.
(Ephesians 1:3-8)
- Solution 2 Trust God to protect our hearts.
(Psalm 27:5, I Peter 4:19)
- Solution 3 Value the unity of the Body of Christ over our comfort. (Ephesians 4:1-5, 15-16)
- Solution 4 Take time to discern what the flesh is saying and what the Spirit is saying.
(Galatians 5:16-17)