

A BRAVE NEW WORLD – Sermon Study
Part 2: “Freedom of Speech Is Worth the Risk”

BIG IDEA

We can grow in biblical freedom by speaking the truth in love, loving our enemies, and overcoming evil with good.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:13 (NIV) – *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”*

ICEBREAKER

- 1. What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever said?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FREEDOM

- 2. How did Jesus engage with people who were considered enemies in His day? (see [Luke 19:1-10](#)) or with those in power (see [John 18:19-24](#))? What does this say about Jesus' idea of freedom when speaking to others?**

SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NKJV) - *“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...”*

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3. **Have you ever had to “speak the truth in love” to someone? What were the results? How do we determine if it’s the right thing to do?**

4. **In different contexts Jesus prioritized truth or grace, depending on the situation, but He carried both as core values. Do you default to proclaiming truth first or to showing love?**

5. **How does “speaking the truth in love” look different in a given context (e.g. with your children, with a non-Christian coworker, or with a friend at church)? How do we navigate the tension of speaking truth while also remaining in relationship?**

6. **How is “speaking truth in love” different than our culture’s version of free speech?**

7. **What are the hazards of “speaking the truth in love” to someone if you’re not in relationship with them (e.g. online, social media), or is that something we should avoid?**

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LOVE YOUR ENEMY

8. **What sorts of assumptions lead us to consider someone an enemy?**

9. Jesus said to love your enemies ([Matthew 5:44](#)). **Is our enemy anyone we disagree with? Or is it someone who is actively fighting against what we believe in? Who do you perceive as an enemy right now?**

10. Genesis 1:27 (NIV) reads, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” **What kind of practices can we develop to help us remember the humanity (value, dignity) of our enemies?** (e.g. the story of Peter Miller from the Revolutionary War—saving his enemy from death, despite actively disagreeing)

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

11. Romans 12:21 (NKJV) reminds us, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” **What are some barriers to choosing good instead of fighting evil with evil?**

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12. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) reads, *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”* **How do we avoid developing an attitude of arrogance when we want to share our confident beliefs? Conversely, what does it look like to listen in humility?**

ACTIVATION

Christians are often known for what they are against. Take a few minutes to discuss what you are you “for” and how that can apply to your relationships. How can you use this for good?

THIS WEEK

Pay attention to your interactions this week to ensure that you are speaking the truth in love as led by the Holy Spirit.