



Love rejoices in truth

1 Corinthians 13:6

Breaking the Ice:

Have you ever been the victim of a dishonest sales practice? How did it make you feel?

For Reflection:

“Christian love has no wish to veil the truth; it is brave enough to face the truth; it has nothing to conceal and so is glad when the truth prevails.” –Barclay

“love is devoted to truth in everything.” - MacArthur

Definition: Rejoices in the truth

συγχαίρω *sugchairō*;

to rejoice. To rejoice together, to share in another’s joy, together, in composition, “to congratulate”

ἀλήθεια *alētheia*;

true. Truth, reality; the unveiled reality lying at the basis of and agreeing with an appearance; the manifested, the veritable essence of matter.¹

¹Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

In relationships we must rejoice in the reality of the situation. We do not live in fantasy land, where we expect things to be as they are not. We do not expect or demand perfection in those we love. We accept the truth about them (they are imperfect) and about ourselves (we too are imperfect) and we give love as part of a divine mandate not because of our superiority or someone's deservedness. The truth is ultimately in Jesus Christ (see John 14:6) and we rejoice in Him, in His example to us and His requirement that we love each other. (see John 13:34-35). -JPW

Love that rejoices in the truth demands that we strive for honesty in our dealings with all others. We are not to pretend that we are something other than we are. We are not to cover our own failings (see James 5:16) but rather seek to show love as we make progress to maturity rather than presenting perfection to others. -JPW

Why is it so hard to be truly honest with others? What is gained when we are honest with others?

How does accepting the fact that we and others in our lives are not perfect, nor can they be, allow us to love in a more mature way?

According to His own words, Jesus is the truth (John 14:6), as such He does not pretend we are something we are not to make us acceptable to Him but He displayed His love for us by dying for us. How does His love for us translate into love for others?

Response:

Choose to love in spite of the reality of failure rather than expecting life and relationships to be other than they are.

Bottom Line:

God loved us knowing the truth about us – so we should love others.