

Matthew 5:33-37  
 Sermon on the Mount  
 MT1017

July 11, 2010 am  
 Kingdom Ethics

## “TELLING THE TRUTH”

**INTRODUCTION:** We live in a culture of “spin”...

1. “Spin” is so bad that we seldom know who is telling us the truth.

2. **Wikipedia:** “*Spin (Public Relations)*”

*In public relations, **spin** is a form of propaganda, achieved through providing an interpretation of an event or campaign to persuade public opinion in favor or against a certain organization or public figure. While traditional public relations may also rely on creative presentation of the facts, "spin" often, though not always, implies disingenuous, deceptive and/or highly manipulative tactics.*

3. The reality of “spin” has led to a whole new genre of spin-related concepts:

- a. Politicians are masters at the spin game, trying to manipulate facts to garner public approval or support.
- b. “Spin room”: the place in a newspaper publisher or media center where public “takes” on current events are crafted and shaped.
- c. “Spin doctors”: people hired to use such disingenuous techniques in order to get people elected (**George Carville**), or to serve as P.R. for a corporation (**Edward Bernays**: “the father of spin”)
- d. Techniques? Subliminal messages, bogus surveys, expert endorsements, half-truths, buried information, subconscious suggestions, etc.
- e. **Wikipedia**
  - *Selectively presenting facts and quotes that support one's position (cherry picking)*
  - *Non-denial denial*
  - *Phrasing in a way that assumes unproven truths*
  - *Euphemisms to disguise or promote one's agenda*
  - *"Burying bad news": announcing one popular thing at the same time as several unpopular things, hoping that the media will focus on the popular one.*
- f. The media is the master of spin:
  - i. *State or corporate run media in many countries also engage in spin by only allowing news stories that are favorable to the government and encouraging vigorous debate of trivial criticisms while serious criticisms remain unmentionable.*
  - ii. **Michael Moore's** bogus and dishonest “documentary” movies
  - iii. **Dan Rather:** Attempt to discredit George W. Bush's military records with bogus documents
  - iv. **Bill and Hillary Clinton:** “Mr. and Mrs. Spin”

v. **All of the radio/TV talk show hosts**

4. These techniques of manipulative lying have permeated our society so that you and I now live in a *culture of spin*.
  - a. Truth is what you want it to be
  - b. Honesty is only expected when it benefits you
  - c. Your opinion is considered equal to facts
  - d. Reason and rationale take second place to personal preference and self-venting
5. Our culture is awash with spin primarily due to the **Internet...**
  - a. *Blog sites* where ignorant people pontificate upon things they have no knowledge. Opinion is supreme.
  - b. *Internet information sites* where misinformation is often offered as facts. Specialists without certification.
  - c. *Websites* where slant is taken and dressed in professional-looking, respectable format.
  - d. *Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn*: cyberspace gossip channels.
6. **I will tell you a truth most of you will not accept:** *The internet has made preaching much more difficult than it was 20 years ago.*
  - a. Why? Because now I must work to deprogram your minds from omnipresent spin before I can inject Biblical truth.
  - b. **Illustration:** Few people here realize how vast the difference is between the Nightly News by **Walter Cronkite** (CBS); **David Brinkley and Chet Huntley** (NBC); **Frank Reynolds and Harry Reasoner** (ABC) and the way the news has come to us in the last few years by the likes of **Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, Anderson Cooper** and **Christiane Amanpour**.
  - c. The difference? Reporting the news compared to shaping public opinion.
  - d. *Objectivity is no longer an even feigned objective.*
7. Jesus faced the same problem in His day: The “*spin*” of the rabbis, Pharisees and scribes had so distorted Biblical truth that Jesus spent half of His earthly ministry deconstructing spin before He offered eternal truth.
8. And that was exactly what He was attempting to do in Matthew 5:17-48...
  - a. *Second part of the Sermon on the Mount*  
*Introduction* (The Beatitudes; 5:1-16)  
*First Point* (Kingdom Ethics; 5:17-48)
  - b. Correcting the distortions of rabbinical Judaism with regard to God’s Law
  - c. “*You have heard it said* (by your rabbis)...*but I say*”
  - d. Presentation of Kingdom Ethics: How we should obey God’s Law as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

- e. i.e., keeping the *spirit* of the Law, not just the *letter* of the Law.
  - f. Approaching God's Law so that it controls you rather than manipulating the law to control others.
9. I informed you last week that Jesus was contradicting the two great schools of rabbinical thought prevalent in His day:
- a. *The School of Hillel*: the liberal and lax approach, favored by the Sadducees.
    - i. Anger and contempt (5:21-26)
    - ii. Lust (5:27-30)
    - iii. Divorce (5:31-32)
  - b. *The School of Shammai*: the conservative and harsh approach, favored by the scribes and Pharisees.
    - i. Oaths and Vows (5:33-37)
    - ii. Retaliation (5:38-42)
    - iii. Treatment of Enemies (5:43-48)
  - c. In each case, Jesus points to *the heart*:
    - i. *Anger and Contempt* (murder in the heart)
    - ii. *Lust* (adultery in the heart)
 

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)*
    - iii. *Divorce* (covenant-breaking in the heart)
    - iv. *Swearing fake oaths* (lack of truth in the heart)

#### 10. **Truth in the heart is essential to fellowship with God and entrance into His Kingdom**

*O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?*

*Who shall dwell on your holy hill?*

*He who walks blamelessly and does what is right  
and speaks truth in his heart;*

*who does not slander with his tongue*

*and does no evil to his neighbor,*

*nor takes up a reproach against his friend;*

*in whose eyes a vile person is despised,*

*but who honors those who fear the Lord;*

*who swears to his own hurt and does not change;*

*who does not put out his money at interest*

*and does not take a bribe against the innocent.*

*He who does these things shall never be moved. (Psalm 15:1-5)*

*Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully. (Psalm 24:3-4)*

11. Listen, then, to what Jesus has to say about truth in the heart.

## I. THE FALSE PERSPECTIVE OF OATHS AND VOWS (5:33-36)

*“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. (Matthew 5:33-36)*

### A. What Moses Taught

1. *“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ (Matthew 5:33)*
2. Jesus refers, correctly, to what Moses actually taught in the Old Testament law.
  - a. *You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:11-12)*
  - b. *Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, “This is what the Lord has commanded. If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. (Num. 30:1-2)*
  - c. *If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth. (Deuteronomy 23:21-23)*
3. Moses taught, quite simply, that men and women:
  - a. Should never make *frivolous* oaths or vows
  - b. Should always keep *deliberate* oaths or vows
  - c. So...stop; think; pray before you swear an oath or take a vow.
4. Moses *did not* forbid the taking of oaths or vows. In fact, he prescribed such swearing at times...  
*It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. (Deuteronomy 6:13)*

*You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. (Deuteronomy 10:20)*

5. Jeremiah prescribed the same oaths or vows...

*“If you return, O Israel,  
declares the Lord,  
to me you should return.  
If you remove your detestable things from my presence,  
and do not waver,  
and if you swear, ‘As the Lord lives,’  
in truth, in justice, and in righteousness,  
then nations shall bless themselves in him,  
and in him shall they glory.” (Jeremiah 4:1-2)*

6. Jesus Himself took an oath when charged to do so by the High Priest...

*But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matthew 26:63-64)*

7. God Himself swears oaths to us as the author of Hebrews so states...

*For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. (Heb. 6:13-18)*

8. **Westminster Confession of Faith** “Of Lawful Oaths and Vows” (ch. 22)

*A lawful oath is part of religious worship, wherein, upon just occasion, the person swearing solemnly calleth God to witness what he asserteth, or promiseth, and to judge him according to the truth or falsehood of what he sweareth. (WCF 22-1)*

*The name of God only is that by which men ought to swear, and therein it is to be used with all holy fear and reverence. Therefore, to swear vainly, or rashly, by that glorious and dreadful Name; or, to swear at all by any other thing, is sinful, and to be abhorred. Yet, as in matters of weight and moment, an oath is warranted by the Word of God, under the new testament as well as under the old; so a lawful oath, being imposed by lawful authority, in such matters, ought to be taken. (WCF 22-2)*

9. Jesus is **not** contradicting Moses (OT Law) but rather **is** correcting rabbinical abuses of the laws of oaths and vows...

10. Namely, you cannot play fast with facts and loose with truth...

## B. What the Rabbis Taught

1. *But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. (Matthew 5:34-36)*
2. The rabbis taught this: *An oath or vow is only as important as the person or thing by which the oath or vow was sworn...*
  - a. *“I swear to God...”* – an unbreakable oath
  - b. *“I swear by heaven”*
  - c. *“I swear by the earth”*
  - d. *“I swear by Jerusalem”*
  - e. *“I swear on my own head”*
  - f. Or, as today, *“I swear on my mother’s grave”*
3. **Gist:** The lower we go, away from God, in invoking our oath, the less important it will be, and the less binding the promises we make.
4. If you say, *“I swear by God’s name”* then that vow must be fulfilled; but if you say *“I swear by my dog”* that vow is a joke – no one expects you to keep your word.
5. So...someone might say to you, *“You broke your promise,”* to which you could answer: *“Ahh, ahh, ahh! I swore on my head! So, sue me! I really didn’t mean it, and everyone but you knows that! Get serious!”*
6. **Here is the essence of raw, ruthless, manipulative “spin”:** *Oh...you heard me say \_\_\_\_\_, but what I really meant was \_\_\_\_\_.”*
7. Jesus will have **none** of that in His Kingdom...

## II. THE TRUE PERSPECTIVE ON OATHS AND VOWS (5:34-37)

*But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. (Matthew 5:34-37)*

### A. Every Oath or Vow is Made to God

1. *But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. (Matthew 5:34-36)*
2. Jesus says, in effect, *“Whenever you swear by anything, you invoke the name of God to validate your oath!”*
  - a. If you swear by *heaven*, then you swear by God’s throne:

*Thus says the Lord:*

*“Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is the place of my rest? (Isaiah 66:1)*

- b. If you swear by the *earth*, then you swear by God’s *footstool*...

*Thus says the Lord:*

*“Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is the place of my rest? (Isaiah 66:1)*

- c. If you swear by *Jerusalem* or *Zion*, then you swear by the *City of God*...

*Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God!  
His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,  
is the joy of all the earth,  
Mount Zion, in the far north,  
the city of the great King. (Psalm 48:1-2)*

- d. Even if you swear by your *own head*, then you swear by your life, which belongs to God!

- i. i.e., if I’m not telling the truth, then I’ll give my head (my life) in forfeit.
- ii. But, your life is not yours to give; it’s God’s.
- iii. *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*
- iv. You have neither the power to make one hair on your head *white* or *black*...
- v. So, surely, you have no power to give your life in ransom for a broken vow!
- vi. **William Hendriksen:** *Matthew, NTC; p. 308*

*Jesus points out, that nobody is able to change the intrinsic color of his hair. It is God, He alone, who determines whether at any given moment a hair is to be white or black. Since this is true, even swearing by one’s head is swearing by God and is as binding as is a different type of oath.*

3. Jesus dealt with these “word games” in oath-taking on more than one occasion. Look at **Matthew 23:16-22.**

- a. *“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything*

*on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. (Matthew 23:16-22)*

- b. Today's versions of this false swearing? *"For God's sake" ... "By God, I tell you" ... "God knows I'm not lying" ... "if I'm lyin', I'm dyin'" ... "Honest to God!",* and so forth.
- c. Such swearing violates Commandment #3...

*"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)*

- d. False oaths betray an ugly truth: *We are trying to use God to get something illegitimate and by way of falsehood. We profane His name for our selfish motives.*

4. **But there is a deeper issue** involved with swearing falsely: *We are using people and trying to bypass their minds, their understanding, their wills and their honest assessment of facts, in order to get them to agree with us – knowing only part of the truth – and getting our way at their expense!*

5. **SPIN...**telling people part of the truth in order to get them to agree with you, consent to your will or give you what you want, *knowing* that if you told them the whole truth, they'd tell you, "No!" Pure, 100%, unadulterated manipulation.

6. **Here are some ugly facts about American Life:**

- a. Half of all students and parents lie on application forms for school or university.
- b. Personnel managers estimate that 25% of the information on resumés is "gross misinformation" (not true).
- c. Two million Americans have illegal offshore bank accounts they use to evade taxes – mostly in Grand Cayman or Bahamas.
- d. Millions of Americans "pirate" cable TV: \$6 billion a year in paid television stolen by Americans!
- e. Many parents take their children "diagnosis shopping": seeing multiple physicians until one will write a diagnosis of a learning disability. Why? The kid gets more time on his SAT test; a better score for college entrance.
- f. Half of Americans cheat the IRS every year.
- g. Estimates are that \$40 billion per year is paid to auto repair shops for fraudulent and unnecessary work.

7. **James Bryan Smith:** *The Good and Beautiful Life (pp. 105, 106)*

*According to a study conducted by Robert Feldman, in a ten-minute conversation we tell an average of 3.3 lies – once every three minutes or so. The most shocking study I have ever seen concluded that we are lied to every five minutes, or an average of two hundred times a day. Author Ralph Keyes, who has written an excellent book on lying, concludes that "some form of deception occurs in nearly two-thirds of all conversations." In another study, 59 percent of two thousand American parents admitted to lying to their children on a regular basis: "Our cable*

*company doesn't get that TV show"; "If you touch that button it could shock you"; "The candy store is closed." And yet, nearly all parents do not want their children to lie and have no tolerance when their children lie to them. Author David Callahan broadens the category of lying to include cheating, which is a form of lying. Cheating involves deception with the intent to gain something. Callahan concludes, Americans are not only cheating more in many areas but are also feeling less guilty about it. Something seems to have shifted in the last few decades. And yet, in study after study people still consider truth-telling to be one of the most important of all virtues. People feel violated when they discover they have been lied to. And yet we are a nation of liars. We are in conflict about this matter, "excusing our lies at the same time that we are appalled by the prevalence of dishonesty."*

8. The solution? Truth in the heart...

#### B. Every Statement is an Evaluation of Your Heart

1. Bottom line for Jesus: *"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil (lit: the evil one)." (5:37)*

2. James repeats his Brother's teaching:

*But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (James 5:12)*

3. **Leon Morris:** *Matthew, Pillar NTC; p. 125*

*The conclusion of the matter is that it is never necessary for Christ's people to swear an oath before they utter the truth. Their word should always be so reliable that nothing more than a statement is needed from them.*

4. Jesus is reminding us that we always speak *Coram Deo*.

a. *Coram Deo*: before God's face; in front of God; in the presence of God

b. Living life "before the face of God" involves truth

c. **Sinclair B. Ferguson:** *The Sermon on the Mount; p. 78*

*Jesus shows us what will introduce and maintain such integrity in our speech. We are always in the presence of God. He sees us and hears us. Every promise we give, every word we speak, we do before His face. Would you live in full view of God's face, and live a lie in His presence?*

5. Jesus is saying: *"In the Kingdom of God, My people live by a higher standard of truth. They say what they mean; they mean what they say; and they are never mean when they say it. 'Spin' is forbidden in the Kingdom of God. My citizens speak truth in their hearts which is found on their lips. My people need not swear by anything because their 'yesses' and their 'noes' are clear as a bell."*

6. The grace of the Gospel frees you to tell the truth, not worry about the fallout, and trust God with the results of the truth and your reputation.

7. **Life Principle #2:** *"The Cause of Truth is always more important than its consequences."*

8. The Sermon on the Mount calls you and me to life in a higher, nobler and more godly sphere. We are the people of truth, and our speech must prove that.
9. ‘Spin’ is a sickening phenomenon of the postmodern world which denies the existence or possibility of truth. But ‘spin’ on the lips of Christians is more than revolting, it is *blasphemy* – a dishonoring of God and men intolerable for Christians.

**CONCLUSION:** That, my friends, is the *unvarnished truth*. We have no place for and no tolerance for manipulative speech...

1. Unfortunately, many of you use ‘spin’ to attempt to get your own way. And you hurt people in the process.
2. Allow me to point to **five** ways in which dishonest, manipulative, and exaggerated truth finds its way into Christ Covenant Church. Five ways that “spin” lives here...
3. **First:** In your hyperbolic, hysterical and slanderous e-mails whenever you’re disappointed and don’t get what you want. Two recent ones in the past two weeks said this...
  - a. *Because of the conduct of the pastors and staff of this church, I will never step foot inside of Christ Covenant Church again. I am deeply saddened by this because I remember a time at this church when the pastors and staff were godly men who were above reproach and that is not the case anymore. These men are hypocrites who place themselves and their own egos above God’s own will for His church and its members. I understand for the first time in my life why people have such negative opinions about church and Christians.*
  - b. *The other sadness I have with all of this is that I feel so betrayed. I expected at least some of my children to be married at CCC and if we ever needed to have a funeral it would be at CCC. I feel like I have been orphaned by our church over this issue. I cannot have any of my children sit in the church on a Sunday morning that supports a \_\_\_\_\_ that does not support its members. I am so embarrassed by all of this and my husband said “you can do what you want but I am not going back there” and that is all he said to me that night after being out of town for over 2 weeks!!! The man could barely speak and what a lousy weekend it made for us. Then I replied by saying, I am not going back there either and I will not financially support anything affiliated with CCC anymore.”*
  - c. Neither person responded to my invitation to sit down with me face-to-face and discuss the *facts*.
  - d. Why? *It’s easier to lob verbal genocides and to slander others than to face your own sins of lying, immorality, fraud and anger.*
  - e. **Rule #1 for e-mails:** Wait 48 hours before you send an angry e-mail, and only after a third party has read your e-mail and advised you. Face-to-face is always better than e-mail.
4. **Second:** In your criticisms and exposé toward other people.
  - a. You google the internet, hear what a third party has to say about someone, and pass it on as Gospel truth.

- b. You conjecture on people’s motives: “*What he implies is this...*” (You don’t know what another person implies or means or intends. You can’t read minds!)
  - c. A writer or speaker is to be taken at his *word* – what he writes or says – and not what you read into it.
  - d. **Illustration:** *The media’s “comments” after every speech or State of the Union address by the president.*
  - e. Here is a real-life **example** of recent slander sent around our church.  
*The September 2006 issue of Christianity Today tells us ordained Southern Baptist minister Dallas Willard “is on a quiet quest to subvert nominal Christianity.” But with the kind of Contemplative Spirituality/Mysticism (CSM)—often called Spiritual Formation—espoused by Willard along with his co-conspirator the Living Spiritual Teacher and Quaker mystic Richard Foster, which always eventually leads its practioners to a denial of the Reformation and the acceptance of the apostate Roman Catholicism as a viable form of Christianity, the truth is that Willard and Foster have in actuality ended up on a quest to subvert true historic orthodox Christianity.*
  - f. Your efforts to destroy a man’s reputation in order to weaken his argument or discredit his views reveals more about your wicked hearts than his errors.
  - g. Before you bash another person on-line, answer this question: *Have you read his book? All of it? On your own?*
5. **Third:** In the way you form an opinion, judge another, take sides and pass on gossip and slander after hearing only one side of the story.
- a. *The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him. (Prov. 18:17)*
  - b. You **must not** blindly support your friends, defend your kids or take up sides against an authority without hearing *the whole truth*.
    - i. Always taking your kids’ side against a teacher, the school staff, or a coach;
    - ii. Readily accepting the word of a friend over against the pastor, the boss, the policeman;
    - iii. Never giving Obama credit but always making excuses for Bush (*or vice versa*);
    - iv. Slandering institutions and organizations because your friends didn’t get what they wanted or they got what they deserved.
  - c. Whatever happened to people of **integrity** who listen to all the facts before rendering a judgment?  
*...who does not slander with his tongue  
 and does no evil to his neighbor,  
 nor takes up a reproach against his friend;  
 in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
 but who honors those who fear the Lord;  
 who swears to his own hurt and does not change... (Psalm 15:3-4)*

- d. *A person of truth sides with righteousness and against sin, even if it means not taking your family or friend's side!*
6. **Fourth:** In stepping into another person's private grudges where you don't belong:
- Remember this: *When your friend runs to you (e-mails you) about all that CCC did wrong to them, you have become part of a great injustice.*
  - How so? Because the pastors, staff and elders of the church cannot disclose private information to defend themselves and vindicate the church.
  - The fight is unfair: *You can leave a private counseling session, tell all and spin your tale. I cannot disclose counseling information to defend myself. I'd be sued if I did.*
  - Do not let another – friend or family – put you in such a compromised position so as to be part of injustice.**
  - Tell them, *"I will pray for your disappointment or go see pastor \_\_\_\_\_ with you to get this all straightened out, but I don't need to hear any more information about your private affairs with the church."*
  - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)*
7. **Fifth:** In the "nuanced" way you say things to others
- To avoid conflict, we often speak in *nuanced* terms – in a manner that can be interpreted more than one way.
  - Example:** Not mentioning our Biblical views on abortion, homosexuality, "hooking up", same sex marriages, or female ordination – all very unpopular views.
  - Illustration:** *The gay from Iowa and the lesbian couple who wanted to join his church (Nashville, General Assembly)*
  - Ligon Duncan:** *Let people know your views so clearly and so plainly that they know where they are disappointed in you, how they disagree with you, and why they reject your beliefs.*
  - Don't lead them on because you're too afraid to tell the truth!
  - "Nuance" is a step away from "*disingenuous*", and being disingenuous is the spin way of lying.
8. Let your "**yes**" mean yes and your "**no**" mean no –
- Yes, I voted for Barak Obama.
  - No, I think homosexuality is a sin.
  - Yes, we are Calvinists in the PCA.
  - No, we don't ordain women as church officers.
  - Yes, we practice church discipline for unrepentant adultery or unbiblical divorce.
  - No, your child deserved a "D" and not a "B".

- g. Yes, we told that couple they could not sing that pop song at their wedding.
  - h. No, I will not give you my support until I hear the other person's side of the story.
  - i. Yes, Dallas Willard has some good things to say about the Sermon on the Mount.
  - j. No, I will not renounce him until I have first-hand and ample evidence that he's a heretic – and, no, another person's blog site is not proof!
9. *It is time for the virtulic, slanderous, hysterical, hyperbolic, misguided, subjective, one-sided and uninformed false talk to end at Christ Covenant.*
10. **Because Jesus has saved us and rules our lives, we do not need to lie to get by.**
11. Jesus Christ, His Gospel of grace, and His Kingdom of truth has freed us from the bane and burden of “spin.” In Christ, we are free to be a people of truth – even if our loved ones and friends don't like it.
12. *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples...  
...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.  
So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* (John 8:31, 32, 36)
13. According to Jesus Christ...  
YOU DESERVE THE TRUTH!
14. Why? Because it will set you free from the abuses of manipulative “spin.”
15. *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (John 14:6)