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Can a Christian Love without Truth?

Ten Truths Essential to Love

David Thompson

December 2025

In this post-Christian and challenging culture, it can sometimes be hard to know how to love our neighbor, especially when he or she rejects time-honored and biblical teachings, many of which were readily accepted just a decade or two ago. Add to this that the whole concept of *truth* has lost its meaning, making it more difficult to know how to love. But truth is essential in helping the Christian to know how to love. So here are ten truths – time-tested and divinely instituted – to bring with us into a world in desperate need of Christian love and of the One who is Truth and Love.

1. Truths really exist that apply to all people of all time. We often refer to these as absolute or objective or transcendent truths. They are established or declared by the almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. And they are truths for the good of all people, even the harsh truths.
2. God wants all men to abide by his truths. To say that certain truths do not apply to certain people or that certain people should be affirmed in what is contrary to God's truth can be the very opposite of love.
3. Christians are to stand firm on God's truths ("Here we stand"). If we waiver, we will end up not fully loving our neighbor. This does not mean we must be vocal (silence at times is an option), but there will be times when a true confession is necessary or required, for silence may be understood as affirming a lie. Christians are not to believe in or live by a lie or give the impression that it is okay for others to live by or believe in a lie.
4. Man is unique in that he alone is created in the image of God and therefore has sacred value – not just some people or not just

Christians, but everyone regardless of what they believe or how they live. This is how we are to view each and every neighbor.

5. Man is fallen. Humans have lost the most important aspect of the image of God – holiness, righteousness, sinlessness. Because of this, many of God's truths can or will be rejected and ignored. We should, therefore, not be surprised when our unbelieving neighbor or even our fellow Christian believes things or lives in ways contrary to God's truths, including obvious truths. This fallenness applies to Christians as well. We have no natural superiority. Ever since the fall, we are all equally unsaved and deserving of hell.
6. In our relations with others, Christians are to bear the fruit of the Spirit, love them unconditionally and sacrificially when opportunities arise, be respectful (of the person) and gentle.
7. We must be aware that the world, our flesh, and Satan will pressure us not to love our neighbor as we should, including the temptation to avoid uncomfortable truths that apply in a given situation. To put it another way, we will be pressured to fear, love, and trust in something or someone else more than the Creator and Redeemer who has given us his truths.
8. People will be offended by Christians and the truths we confess. Being offended *may* indicate we have been unloving. But the opposite may be true: it may mean we have loved *because* we have stood on the truth, confessed the truth, or lived by the truth (see Mark 10:17-21 where the love of Christ is clearly tied to a truth – a harsh truth – that a man needed to hear but who walked away offended).
9. Christ died for all, not just for Christians. Therefore, and above all, we are to desire the salvation of our neighbor. As God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the *truth*, so should we. But we can hinder this if we ignore or downplay certain truths, including those truths that a person, who God has placed in our lives, is denying or struggling with.
10. As we fall short, we rest in the complete, unconditional, undeserved forgiveness of our sins provided by God's great love for us, established in the sacrificial love of Christ on the cross for us, and graciously distributed to us by the Holy Spirit in word and sacrament.

Rev. David Thompson is the director of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews.
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