

To Live is Christ

21 For to me, to live is Christ.

Philippians 1:21 NKJV

FCI Faith Group Program

June 4, 2023

3 JOHN SERIES – A GOOD TESTIMONY FROM THE TRUTH

- We learned that John wrote and commended Gaius for supporting the work of the Lord. And then he called out the error of Diotrephes. We saw two kinds of people in the church.
- As a leader, it is good to encourage people when they are doing the right thing, but we must also call out their errors.
- John takes after Jesus as His disciple. Even Jesus rebuked the spirit behind Peter.
- Every time there is a direct attack on the truth, it is a direct attack on Jesus because He is the truth.
- We are all leaders in our own families, own workplace or businesses. We are to commend those who do right and call out those who are in error. If we do not call out an error and take time to correct it, then we are allowing the error or the evil to continue, even to grow.
- We should stand for the truth.
- We call out mistakes because we love. In any correction that we make, let us come from the love of God that we have.
- On the other hand, if *tayo ang nakatanggap ng* correction, let's be humble enough to receive it.
- If you heed the correction, you will do well and you will be wiser.
- *Ang hindi nagpapacorrect ay fool. Ang tumatanggap ng* correction ay wise.
- Evil triumphs when the godly are silent.
- As leaders of our home, the grace of God is with you and you can do it by His grace. *Wag nating pabayaang* evil. In every household, there is a leader. *Kung hindi ang tatay, ang nanay. Kung di pwede si Nanay, si kuya o si ate, minsan si bunso pa.* And you know that for yourself if you are the leader.
- How to be a godly leader? You must know the truth. If you know the truth, you can lead.
- All of us who knows Jesus, we can lead in our area of influence.
- We have the responsibility to call out errors to protect, preserve, and speak out the truth.
- We are compelled by Jesus in us. Christ in us leads in truth. This is Christ working in us and through us. There is a leading to stand in truth and to lead in truth.
- Some leaders fail to do this and have affected many lives.
- Ex. Parents – We need to let our children know that this is our God-ordained responsibility. We have to speak up according to what God has called us to do.
- We have to do our part to praise those who are doing right and correct those who are doing wrong.
- Ex. Adam failed to do that. He did not speak the truth. He was in charge of the garden. It was his God-ordained responsibility to tell his wife. When the woman talked to the serpent, Adam did not speak and did not correct her. Adam was with her. **(Genesis 3:6)**
- Adam is called a husband therefore, he is the leader. Adam should have corrected the woman with love, *di naman kailangang pasigaw*, when she was about to eat the fruit. In fact, Adam heard the lies of the serpent and yet he did not correct it. That is why the error progressed, Adam fell into transgression. And all humanity was affected.
- But praise God, Jesus, the last Adam, saw the wrong. And in God's perfect time, He came to save us. He took the blame and shame and corrected the wrong.
- As leaders in our family or area of influence, with grace and yet with boldness we need to correct things. Call out the wrong or the wrong will prevail.
- Praise the good. Correct the wrong.

- A good example is the leadership of Caleb and Joshua. **(Numbers 13:1-2)**
- Twelve spies: 10 gave an evil report while only two, Caleb and Joshua, gave a good report – according to the Word of God. **(Numbers 13:30-33)** *Kapag hindi ka aligned sa truth, maraming imahinasyon/imbensyon sa iyong isipan.* (Ex. a land that devours its inhabitants; ALL the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature; we were like grasshoppers in our own sight)
- So because these 10 spies spoke evil, not just negatively, but evil, why? They did not believe that God will give them the land. Then all the people of Israel were affected. One million *ang nag-iyakan, balik na daw sa Egypt, mamatay na lang daw sila.* **(Numbers 14:1-2)** And as they spoke, it happened to them.
- This is the error of speaking against the truth or what God said. These are even leaders!
- Praise God, 2 out of 12, Caleb and Joshua spoke up even if they were outnumbered. **(Numbers 14:6-9)**
- It doesn't matter *kahit dalawa lang kayo or mag-isa ka lang, basta nasa side ka ng truth.*
- When truth is with you, grace is with you because grace and truth always come together.
- Eleven days turned to 40 years in the wilderness until they all died. According to their words, it happened.
- Only Caleb received his inheritance, Joshua and the Joshua generation (39 years old and below) entered the promised land.
- Praise God when leaders stand for truth, *may maliligtas* and they will enjoy what the Lord has prepared for them.
- As leaders, we are to do the same. Stand on the truth and speak out the truth without fear. *Pag ayaw nilang makinig, wala tayong magagawa* for them. But you as a leader, should stand up and correct an error, rebuke a deceiver, and trust in the Lord. And lead those who want to be led.
- True leadership is not about control. True leadership is about service in truth.
- *Maski iwan ka nila, wag kang matatakot. Maski di sila sumunod, wag kang manghihinayang.* Because you are on the side of truth. *At wag mo silang hahabulin kung sila ay aalis.* As long as you are standing on the truth, you are to stand therefore.
- Those who are for you will stay with you.
- Si Jesus *iniwan din.* **(John 6:53-57,60,66-68)** But the 12 disciples stayed with Him.
- Jesus did not manipulate them. And He did not run after them. But those who are willing, Jesus inspired them and empowered them.
- Those who stayed were kept by Jesus. Praise God we are kept by Jesus and we keep the truth!
- This is the kind of testimony we should have. One who has a good testimony because we stand in the truth and for the truth.
- We uphold the truth. *Magsalita ka sa iyong nasasakupan.*
- We have the grace of God that is why we can communicate with grace.
- As long as you are walking in truth and love, the grace of God in you will help you speak and walk in truth, therefore, having a good testimony. Uphold the truth.
- **3 John 1:12-14** – Everyone speaks very highly of Demetrius and even a good testimony from the truth.
- Testimony is how you see yourself, how others see you, your identity, what you do that people see, it is evidence seen in you.
- Demetrius is a good leader, upholds the truth, speaks the truth, a good testimony for all.
- Wrong is wrong even when everybody is doing it. Truth is truth even when you are the only one believing it.
- We do not go by the flow or by the sway of others. Remember, the world is under the sway of the wicked one. *Kanya-kanyang truth na lang sa mundo kasi wala ng absolute truth.* They don't recognize God today. They see themselves as the god of their own truth or opinion. **(Romans 1:25** – who exchanged the truth of God for the lie)
- Ex. Personal pronouns – It's a confused world out there.
- Praise God merong katotohanan. *Ang Katotohanan ay na kay Kristo Hesus.* We need not guess or make up anything. The truth is found in Christ alone.
- Confusion happens when people ignore the truth of God.
- The truth is, in the beginning, God created man; male and female He created them.

- By the grace of God, we can have a good testimony from all with regard to standing in truth.
- But did you know the truth has a good testimony of us?
Ang katotohanan ay may magandang testimony patungkol sa ating mga mananampalataya.
Ang katotohanan ay may magandang patotoo patungkol sa atin.

- God/Jesus who is the truth, has a good opinion of us.
- This is possible for a believer of Jesus because our identity is in Him.
- **Ephesians 1:3-12** – This is our identity in Christ and it will never change. This is God's good testimony of the truth about you. (**Assignment: Read Ephesians Chapter 1**)
- From A-Z, God edifies us or builds us up by His words, and we receive grace through His words building us up.
- This testimony about you is your beautiful testimony according to the truth.

Our testimony should be a good testimony because we stand in the truth and for the truth.
As leaders, we uphold the truth.
We speak according to what God says in His Word.
We praise the good, we correct the wrong.
It is our God-ordained responsibility within our area of influence to speak according to what God has called us to do, with grace and yet with boldness.
This is Christ in us leading us in truth.
The truth which is only found in Him.
The truth who has a good testimony or opinion of us.
Believe and receive the good testimony of God about you and the truth that you know will set you free!

You can say: "Hi am _____. I am: Accepted, Beloved, Child of God, Dead to Sin, Empowered by God, Faith-filled, Grace-filled, Heaven-ready. My identity is In Christ, I'm a Jesus person. And my pronoun is he (for male)/she (for female) just as God made me to be."

- *Tanggapin natin ang katotohanan* and the truth that we know will set us free!