

LIE NOT ONE TO ANOTHER

By

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I am truly blessed and privileged to have the opportunity to travel amongst the Lord's Body and to share the glorious Reality of the Salvation that is ours now in Christ. This is not only a tremendous blessing, but as The Lord has made me to understand, an awesome responsibility: one that I do not take lightly. And as I continue to share with The Body, The Lord has been challenging me and confronting me with THE TRUTH. It is not just a case of preaching or being invited to hold meetings to speak to God's people: but the issue for me is am I seeing The Truth of our Salvation and declaring God's Truth to His people? And am I willing to do that even if some may reject me or refuse to receive the message I share? And even more fundamental and challenging is this: am I living "The Truth" that I am preaching? Is the Living Reality that I am preaching real in me: is it evident in my life, not just in the words that I preach during meetings?

The Lord has severely upbraided me in this regard, questioning me this way: "Those of you who PRESUME to preach "The Revelation of Christ" – are you living that Reality?" And I realize that many of us dare to preach the "doctrine" of The Revelation; or have acquired an intellectual knowledge of theology that enables us to set forth certain Biblical truths. But yet there is little evidence of the truths we

preach in our daily lives. This has been a burden on my heart, but I recognize that The Lord needs to challenge us in this regard. It is not just to spur us to greater fleshly pursuits in “our ministry”. But God needs to challenge us with **HIS TRUTH** – The Reality of The Finished Work of The Cross of Christ. And we need to be further challenged in this: are we allowing the Working of The Reality of God to take place in our hearts? We are talking here about “**TRUTH**” - The Truth of God’s Heart and His Eternal Plan. And by definition Truth is “the unveiled reality: it is the essence of what something appears – made known”. And this is important for us to understand. God’s Truth – The Reality of His Mind is now made known to us in the very Person of His Son by The Cross. But “Truth” does not mean simply factual statements. “Truth” must have a manifestation: the Reality has an expression. “Truth” is not static, and it causes something to happen in the one in whom Truth is revealed. Now we know that “The Truth” must be revealed: there must be an Apokalupsis (Strong’s #602) But then there is a manifestation, a making visible (Phaneroo - #3519) of that Truth in the person to whom Truth has been revealed.

It is not sufficient for us just to come together to “learn true things” about Jesus and The Cross or about our Salvation. We are not talking about merely learning facts about Him or Christian doctrines. The real learning of The Truth of God is not accomplished by taking notes during a lecture and then memorizing those words. “Learning The Truth” means an experiential Living of Truth: the Reality of our Salvation in Christ being worked in us day by day. This “Truth” becomes evident in our daily living. And this must become the purpose of all of our gatherings and “Christian activities”: not only to

learn and declare Truth, but that there will be a living of Truth: a manifestation of this Reality in the lives of believers.

I want to remind us of God's purpose for ministry that is set forth in **Ephesians 4**. We often call this "The Fivefold Ministry Gifts". **Ephesians 4:11**: *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."* But we must see that these are all aspects of the ministry of **Christ** to The Church, His Church: **HE** is the gift! But this is for a purpose: not just so that believers would get involved in "ministry" when they get saved and "get busy for Jesus". **Ephesians 4:12**: *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"* And the word "perfecting" there means to complete thoroughly. It means "equipping the saints" for the ministering work. But this again is for a purpose: with a view to the building up of The Body of Christ. The word "edifying" here means not only to initially construct; but the continual strengthening and maintaining of The Body according to God's View and Plan. This is an inward working of the Spirit of God but it is not just in view of individuals: but in view of The Body. And I want to clarify that this is not concerning "bodies of believers" (what we call "churches"), but this is concerning THE Body of Christ: The (exclusively one) Body of The Resurrected Son of God who now is established in heaven, but functions in the earth as "The Church". And this is according to God's View and definition of "Church" declared in **Ephesians 1:22**: *"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."*

Now this “ministering work” is to bring us to come to and experience the fulness of Christ. **Ephesians 4:13:** *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”* This is not to bring us “to unity”; but in the unity, the oneness of His faith (in a true knowledge of Him), the Body (made up of individual believers) would function as a perfect, complete man – which is defined as *“the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”*. And contrary to what is being taught and merchandised in Christianity today, we do not become “perfect men (or women)”. There is a (singular) perfect MAN that God is satisfied with – and that is His Son. So God desires that each member in His Body (those who are One with Him) grow in the knowledge of The Son of God, and enable The Body to come to the fulness of Christ and become an expression of Him.

But I want us to see here that the “measure” of The Body is **Christ**: it is not the many of us or the individual ministry positions. All of those ministries are to build up The Body to experience and express the fulness of Christ because God’s View is of The Body that He has already quickened, raised and seated (as One) in the heavens. (**Ephesians 2:6**) God’s desire for believers is that we ALL come to the fulness of Christ: His Resurrection Life. Now nonbelievers will be “converted”, but when they are, God’s Purpose is not just that we be “born again” children having experienced a Salvation that has simply forgiven us our sins. But God desires that we come to a FULL knowledge of The New Life we now have – Christ, and function as The Body of Christ here in the earth. And we see this purpose declared (the word “that” denotes purpose) in **Ephesians 4:14:** *“That we*

henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

God does not merely desire that many believers come: but He desires the functioning of The Life of Christ in those believers so they live as He is, as His Body: in a mature relationship of Oneness with The Father. This is God’s Purpose and View of Salvation, and we must come to this understanding also. And the Apostle Paul tells us how this will be done. **Ephesians 4:15:** “*But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*” This is what I want to talk about and challenge us with. The challenge is: are we speaking **THE TRUTH**? And are we speaking The Truth in love? And even more fundamentally, what is **THE TRUTH – The full Truth of God**? And we need to see the importance of “speaking the Truth” in relation to “growing up into Him”: because He is The Head of His Body.

And maybe we need to just pause here and consider the situation in Christianity today. Who is the Head of “our churches”? Too often we have to admit it is man: and a man or woman defines that “church” and its doctrines. And unfortunately this is why in Christianity today we have so many divisions and “churches”. We seem to be content with “bodies of believers”, but this is not The Body of Christ. In God’s View there is only ONE Body, ONE Faith, ONE Lord, ONE Spirit – with Christ as the Head. But we must see the importance of His Headship, and our growing up into Him in all things is essential to the edifying (strengthening) of His Body. **Ephesians 4:16:** “*From whom (Christ as Head) the*

whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” But I want to emphasize that this is NOT accomplished by our carnal efforts and by us being “taught” how to be an Evangelist, a Prophet or a Pastor. This comes by us learning Christ. So there is another aspect of this that I want us to consider: what do WE desire? Do we want to grow in the Lord? And will we ACCEPT The Truth? **I Peter 2:2:** *”As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”* Sadly I believe that very few believers really do want to grow up in all things and want “the sincere (pure) milk of God’s Word”. They desire a “sugar-coated” Gospel that will allow them to remain as children of God, but never coming to full maturity of Relationship. But in order to GROW – to grow up in a full comprehension of our Salvation Relationship, we have to DESIRE the sincere milk of The Word – THE TRUTH of God in the Person of His Son; and receive that Truth into our hearts. Only then will we be truly strengthened and can grow up strong and secure in Him.

Ephesians 4:21: *“If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:”* **THE TRUTH AS IT IS IN JESUS.** And it is only in this way that we will grow up into Him in all things. But sadly we have to admit that most of us have not grown up into Him in all things. We have not come to maturity, a full knowledge of our New Life; and we remain as those “children” described in verse 14. But it is **“speaking The Truth”** – AS The Truth is in Jesus with the Love that God is and that has formulated and implemented His Plan that is needed in the Body of Christ for this to take place. And “The Truth as it is in Jesus” refers

directly to The Cross because when He came to this earth to go to The Cross, TRUTH (THE REALITY OF GOD'S THOUGHT) came and was made known. **John 1:17:** *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. 18: No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (made Him to become known)."*

So we need to come to a much fuller understanding of God's View of The Cross: of His Reality – of the heavens, of God's Plan that was fully accomplished by The Cross. Remember everything that was set forth in the Scriptures under the Old Covenant was only types and shadows of what was "to come". But when He came – The Perfect – The Reality (that had been hidden) was made known in The Person of The Son of God as The Son of Man.

And as we ask the Spirit of God to make this Reality real to us, the Lord has brought another scripture to me and I have also been greatly challenged by this. **Colossians 3:9:** *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."* **LIE NOT ONE TO ANOTHER.** Now my saying this to believers may seem very judgmental and accusatory, but we have to set this up in relation to "The Truth"—**"The Truth as it is in Jesus"**: The Reality that was made manifest by The Cross; and it is The Truth of The Cross that makes this serious. And if we are not speaking and living according to that Reality, then we lie!

I want to say again that this has been a very strong dealing of The Lord in my heart. I remember vividly one day that The Lord rebuked me as I was considering the greatness of The Finished Work of The Cross. He spoke in my heart: "You are

making me a liar!” I was reading His Word, and agreeing that it was “true”, but The Truth of it was not operational in my life. And so in effect I was making Him the liar: that His Word was not capable of being The Truth by which I could live. And I realized very cautiously then that I could not really “preach The Truth” except I “lived The Truth”. The Truth must not just have a verbalization: it must have manifestation. The Apostle John called it “walking in The Truth”. **III John 3:** *“For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”* We must recognize that “The Truth” is the very Indwelling Person of The Resurrected Christ, and we are living Eternally – and can live daily - by Him. **II John 1:** *“The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; 2: For the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.”*

And I recognized that when I was refusing to “walk (live daily) in “The Truth” I was not merely refusing a doctrine or a teaching: but I was denying the Reality of **The Person** of our Salvation who now dwells in me by The Finished Work of The Cross. So the challenge was not to appear to “be a good Christian”; but that I submit everything to the Indwelling Reality of Christ who is now my Life. And this makes this all the more serious!

I believe this is the “knowing” that Paul was referring to in **Romans 6:** not an intellectual agreement of spiritual facts, but an experiential knowing of Reality so that we can “walk in Newness of Life” (Romans 6:4): that Life that we now have – Christ. And remember that the Apostle Paul came to this

“knowing” when he “saw The Lord”: then he “saw The Truth” of all of the Scriptures: of all the types and shadows of the Old Covenant. And the Gospel that Paul preached was out from THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – and ours should be also. **Galatians 1:11:** *“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12: For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* And I believe The Lord is really questioning “our” Gospel: did we learn it by man – for man and for his purposes: or by The Spirit-given unveiling of the Greatness and Reality of God’s Son and The Finished Work of The Cross? God wants to remove all of “man’s truths” from our doctrine so that we may be filled with His Truth!

So I urge us to take time before The Lord to “learn The Truth as it is in Jesus” and speak that to one another. And I want to state emphatically that the “doctrine of the Greatness of Christ and Him crucified” is not debatable! Paul’s letters were not his “theory” about Jesus, or his religious fantasies concerning the Church. Paul was setting forth The Truth – The Fact of all things of God’s Eternal Plan now established in Heaven; The Reality of the Greatness of Christ and The Cross, and of The Reality of the Reconciling and Redeeming Work of Calvary in the lives of believers. This was solely based upon Christ being revealed in Paul so that he could minister Truth to The Church. And he was warning them not to allow any man (any religious doctrine, or philosophical understanding) to beguile them and cause them not to experience the fulness of the New Life they now were having in Christ. Paul was not setting forth a prophecy of “what would be some day”. He was declaring what in Christ was so NOW: The Reality of what The Cross of Christ had done.

And he was encouraging believers to accept The Truth of God in the Person of The Indwelling Christ, and live daily in HIM: that they would walk worthy of The Lord.

So in the book of Colossians Paul establishes what God has done. **Colossians 1:13**: *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”* And he gives Christ His rightful place concerning “all things”. Colossians 1:15: *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19: For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;”*

But then he relates this Christ to the believer: what The Blood of His Cross has done. **Colossians 1:20**: *“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:”* And then he establishes that the Mystery of God that had been hidden is now made manifest (The Truth: The Reality of God made known) which is **Christ in you. Colossians 1:27**: *“To whom*

*God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” And now because of this Indwelling Christ, God desires that we walk in Him (live daily); rooted and grounded in Him. **Colossians 2:6:** “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: **7:** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” But Paul admonishes them not in terms of a religion: but in light of The Truth: that they learn **Christ** and not the teachings of man. **Colossians 2:8:** “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ... **16:** Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days...**18:** Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,”*

He is setting forth in this letter unequivocally God’s View of Believers so that they may come to experience God’s Reality. **Colossians 2:10:** “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power... **20:** Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances... **Colossians 3:1:** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God... **3:** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” This is the Reality of Heaven: this is God’s View: and now – since this is the FACT of our Salvation, our union with Christ as One; this brings about changes in the earth—in us. And chapter 3

continues to describe the “Christian living”; or better said, “living as The Body of Christ”. But this is all based upon The Truth that he has had revealed to him in the Person of Jesus Christ and The Cross.

And it is in this context that Paul writes **Colossians 3:9**: *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”* The Truth is that by Christ and The Cross – and us believing in that Finished Work, we HAVE put off the old man and his deeds, and HAVE put on an entirely different – New Man. But notice this does not say you have “put off the deeds of the old man.” No, the old man is put off (reckoned dead and no longer considered even to have influence over us) by The Work of The Cross. But too often we just try to put off “the deeds” without understanding that the old man needs to be dealt with before the deeds. We “did the deeds” because of the “man” we were! All of the “deeds” of verses 5 through 8 are the deeds of the old man – who now is dead! The Truth is the old man is dead to God, but sadly he is not dead to us. We have tried to “put off” some of his bad deeds, but have never reckoned him to be dead – to me! And unfortunately that dead old man still has influence over me. And we have been lying to ourselves: against The Truth, against The Reality of The Cross because by The Cross the old man is not only brought to a complete death, but is completely buried and has no more influence at all!

In God’s View he is completely removed and has no more power over the believer! But the believer has not been left void: he has put on (completely) The New Man, which is Christ. It is not a physical clothing, but it is The Life of Christ that we have received: His Nature, His Mind, His Heart. And the activity of the Spirit of God is now to renew us in the

knowledge of Christ our Life, which works in us to conform us into the very image of Him that created us (Christ) as a New Creature – His Body in Resurrection Life. God wants us as Believers to come to His View, His Reality of our New Life which is Christ, and no longer be in bondage to that old man.

But what I want to emphasize is that this all must be seen in light of The Truth of Christ and what God HAS accomplished by The Cross. We now live by this Reality... we must comprehend the fulness of this Reality... so we speak only this Reality... and allow this Reality to function as real in us. And anything less than the greatness of The Finished Work of Christ before God is a lie. And I want to emphasize that I am not talking about merely quoting scriptures and saying “God’s Word is true”. It is not just saying true scriptures, but as The Body of Christ being The Truth of the Reality of those scriptures that Christ is: not only “speaking” The Truth one to another, but “being” The Truth of God one to another: of all that He has done, and all that He has made us to be as that New Creation: those who are in union with Him.

And so to finish this sharing I just want to challenge us with some ways that we can “lie” one to another. And we need to understand that I am talking about “religious ideas” that are NOT The Truth as it is in Jesus. But these “sound” humble and holy, and cause us to become self-righteous; and this is the way in which they deceive us. And rather than focusing on Christ and Him Crucified, these lies focus on US, and how WE see ourselves to be. Remember everything has to be judged by The Reality of Christ and His Cross – not “our” religious imaginations and fantasies. And I know we can say we “know” these Scriptures: but I am not talking about

memorizing these Scriptures: I am challenging us – are we allowing the TRUTH of these Scriptures to be TRUE in us?

- **“We lie”**—when we say we are just sinners saved by grace: that we are unrighteous before God because of our sins. No: you were a sinner: you were dead in your state of sin and could not come to God. That was BEFORE you came to Christ and The Cross! **BUT NOW** – in Christ we have been made to be the righteousness of God. **Ephesians 2:1:** *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”* **II Corinthians 5:21:** *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

We no longer should be comprehending ourselves as “a sinner” and under the bondage of sin: but we should be “Knowing this” and speaking The Truth of **Romans 6:6:** *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7: For he that is dead is freed from sin...11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

- **“We lie”** – when we say we have our own life: although since we now are Christians we will live OUR life FOR Him. No – YOU are dead, and have no Life but CHRIST. We have to allow the Judgment of The Cross to become REAL in us. **II Corinthians 5:14:** *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.”* **I Corinthians 6:19:** *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20: For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”* **Galatians 2:20:** *“I am*

crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- **“We lie”** - when we continue to say we are still the old man, and can’t change: that “we are the lie” and that darkness remains in us. Now I know we are not walking in the FULL Light that Christ is: but in this understanding we are making “the lie” and “the darkness” of humanity greater than The Light that Christ is now dwelling in us. And in this understanding, sadly we usually are using this as an excuse to continue some behavior, and are allowing “the darkness to remain”, rather than allowing The Indwelling Light that Christ is to dispel all darkness in us. The Truth of Christ declares you are NOT now just that lie and darkness! **Ephesians 5:8:** *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”* **I Thessalonians 5:4:** *“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5: Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”* **I John 2:8:** *“Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.”*

- **“We lie”** – when we say “we just have to die”. That is NOT something that the flesh is able to do, although it sounds self-righteous and religious. And that is dangerous because it is totally negating The Work of The Cross. What we have to do is *“reckon ourselves dead”* (**Romans 6:11**) because of The Finished Work of Christ. And it is not just us becoming religious and “trying to follow God’s Law” and become Holy by what we do. That “lie” frustrates God’s

Grace. **Galatians 2:21:** *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."*

- **"We lie"** – when we try to put off the deeds of the old man, but not see that the old man IS dead along with his deeds. But we have not allowed "ourselves" – the flesh man to be buried with Christ by baptism into His death: so we spend our whole "Christian life" battling temptation and the devil rather than walking in the Newness of Life that Christ has given us. **Romans 6:4:** *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"* **Romans 7:24:** *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25: I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord..."* **Colossians 3:9:** *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10: And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"*

- **"We lie"** – when we say that we have Salvation, but that we are stuck here in the earth waiting to "go be with Jesus some day when we die." **Colossians** tells us that is NOT The Truth of our Salvation. **Colossians 3:1:** *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."* Our problem is that we are walking by sight and not by Faith in The Truth: we are not setting our affections on heavenly things: in The Reality of Christ; but rather in the things on the earth.

- **“We lie”** – when we say that Jesus has to come back to the earth “some day” to FINISH THE WORK. Jesus said He came – to go to The Cross to die to complete God’s Plan of Salvation, and HE DID! **John 17:1:**” *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*” His “first” appearing was as Jesus to go to The Cross. His “second” appearing is to make known by His Spirit all that He has done – His Full Salvation. **Hebrews 9:26:** “...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself... **28:** *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second (time) without sin unto salvation*”. He now appears AS SECOND in the hearts of Believers – in Spirit and Truth – unto Life!

- **“We lie”** – when we as Christians are continually talking about the Devil and worrying about him “chasing me all the time” and “wrecking havoc in my life”. We even may say that this is because of our devotion to the Lord, and think that this sounds Spiritual, but it DISREGARDS The Lord’s Work at The Cross, where the “power of the enemy” was brought to naught! We often “give place to the devil” by functioning in the flesh, but that still does NOT override the Victory Christ has won over the Devil at The Cross. **John 12:31:**” *Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*” **Hebrews 2:14:**” *Forasmuch then as the*

children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” I John 3:8: “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” Ephesians 1:19: “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20: Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,” The Devil has NO PLACE in Christ: He is already defeated! And if we were functioning as His Body the Devil would have no influence over us either.

Unfortunately we can go on and on discussing “how we lie one to another”. It is not my intention to be unkind or accusatory to anyone. But my heart continues to be challenged by The Truth: **The Truth as it is in Jesus; by The Truth that now dwells in us.** And my heart’s desire is to grow in that Truth, to have the opportunity to share that Truth with hearts who are hungry to grow in the Lord, and to allow that Truth – that Living Reality of our glorious Salvation to be manifested in our midst every day.

And I know that this is God’s Heart towards us also. Amen.