

## THE BALANCE BETWEEN BOLDNESS AND LOVE

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Logging on to social media lately has been like stepping into the middle of a warzone. Regardless of whether or not it is right, it seems that everyone has an opinion. Opinions and belief systems are clashing, and words like “intolerant” and “hateful” are being used freely. Facebook arguments are getting longer, and the “unfriend” button is more familiar than ever. It seems that people aren’t allowed to disagree anymore; differing opinions are viewed as a personal attack. In an effort to please the masses, political correctness is held at a higher value than truth. Christians are finding themselves at the crossroads of either adjusting their beliefs to fit their culture, or suffering the backlash of popular opinion.

In light of this trend, the need for a voice of truth has never been greater. The world may not want to hear the truth, but the world desperately needs the truth; the truth is going to set them free. A distinct and clear sound is crucial, and there are three things it must include: knowledge of the truth, boldness in the truth, and the ability to deliver the truth in love.

As popular culture changes, there is much confusion over what the Word of God states. Fundamental principles of Scripture are being twisted to align with a culture that is drastically declining. There is a famine in the land, a famine for the Word of God, the Bread of Life. There’s a great need for Christians everywhere to know what the Word of God says about the state of the world in which we live. II Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” So know what the Word of God says. Start Bible studies. Check out the “must read” list on [Hyphenonline.org](http://Hyphenonline.org). Dwell on Scripture. The need for the Word of God is great, so buy the truth and sell it not.

Christians must stand for truth and be bold in that stance. We must realize that the truth is countercultural; the truth WILL offend. However, being bold in truth is not an excuse to be hateful. Our motivation needs to be that of compassion and a sincere love for others. With compassion as our motive, we need to be bold in truth and loving in delivery. The old adage may seem corny, but it’s true: “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.” The goal of our boldness and knowledge of truth is to win souls, not arguments, so speak the truth in love.

The world is changing, but do not be intimidated; this truly is an exciting time to be a part of the kingdom of God. I heard it said recently, “The darker the night, the brighter the light.” As our world appears to fade darker and darker, let it be a call to action. Let us allow the love of God and the beauty of His truth to shine brightly with our knowledge of His Word, and the ability to be strong in truth and loving in delivery.