

“EMPATHY OR TRUTH IN LOVE? - Part 1”

Pastor Mark Johnson

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INTRO: In this series we will expose at least five lies we’re being told and which many Christians believe (Eph. 5:11).

I. WHAT IS EMPATHY?

- Empathy is sympathizing with another person’s pain (feelings, experiences, beliefs, lifestyle, etc.).

II. ISN’T EMPATHY A CHRISTIAN VIRTUE?

- Empathy is a positive human virtue and should especially be present among Christians.

III. EMPATHY’S LIMITATIONS

- Empathy is an emotion, and emotions aren’t always accurate indicators of reality, truth or best course of action.

IV. EMPATHY IS BEING USED AGAINST CHRISTIANS

- Playing off Christian compassion with ulterior motives.

V. WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO LIES

- A. A being led by our emotions or human reasoning rather than the Word of God & the Spirit of God.
- B. A deficient biblical foundation and biblical worldview (Isa. 55:8-9; Prov. 14:12; 16:25; 3:5-6).
- C. A lack of discernment.
- D. We give in to appeals to our emotions and/or logic.
- E. We give in to clever wording.
- F. We give in to criticism, guilt, shame, name calling, etc.
- G. We give in to lies and deceit.
- H. A lack of critical thinking (Isa. 1:18).
- I. A fear of rejection and persecution.

VI. TRUTH IN LOVE (Eph. 4:15)

- A. Speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15; Heb. 12:6).
- B. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6).
- C. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17).
- D. Knowing the truth makes you free (John 8:31-32).

VII. ANOTHER AGENDA

- Often “*Their*” agenda isn’t really to help the person, but to push an ungodly agenda with evil purposes.

CONCLUSION: Let’s make sure our empathy is submitted to truth in love, regardless of the cost.