



The Truth About Transparency (Are you Telling the Truth?)

January 16, 2022

Scripture for the Series (Ephesians 4:25)

- 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. (NIV)

Text: Ephesians 6:13-14

- ¹³ Therefore take up **the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand ¹⁴in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, ⁹having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**,

I. Three Transparent Tips from The Apostle

1. Be Committed:

- He mentions the importance of deciding to be fully **committed** and put on the entire armor of God. Without this level of commitment your ability to withstand the evil days ahead are unlikely

2. Be Transparent:

- He mentions the second thing a person who desires to be strong must put on is **transparency**

3. Be Righteous: (Simply do what is right)

- He mentions the third thing a person who desires to be strong must put on is **righteousness**.
- You must be committed to do what is righteous

II. Paul's Transparent Testimony About His Past (I Timothy 1:12-17)

- 12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though **I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man**, I was shown mercy because **I acted in ignorance and unbelief**. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
- 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinner—of whom I am the worst**. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, **the worst of sinners**, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- He was a blasphemer (He was verbally abusive)
- He was a persecutor (He attacked people)
- He was a violent man (Acts 9:1, he was “breathing threats and murder... the disciples”)
- He was ignorant (Remember he was highly educated, Galatians 1:14, Acts 22:3-5)
- He was an unbeliever (Acts 8-9)
- He was the worst of sinners (Acts 7:58, held the coat for the killers of Stephen)

Statement: It is tough to be this transparent!

Closing Question:

1. Are you a transparent person?
2. What are you afraid people will see?
3. What are your standard excuses for not being transparent?

Closing Arguments: Possible Reasons for Not Being Transparent

1. I have a right to my privacy (True, but without this you are not fully dressed)
2. Everyone can't handle my transparency (True, but without this you are not...)
3. Some may use this against me (True, but without this ...)

Wait A Minute: Pastor Rick are you always transparent about everything?

- I try but with wisdom! This can be challenging for the reasons I just stated (my privacy, everyone can't handle my life, and some may try to use my nakedness against me).

Next Time: The Truth About Being Prepared

Big Question: Were you ready for what you now face in the world?

Side Question: Why were you not prepared for the issues you face?