

Ephesians 4:10-16
Biblical Civility
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Introduction: A super-heated, word-charged culture

Key Question: What is the role of the church in an age of Trolling, Tweeting, Flaming and Word-bombing?

Answer: The church's mission is to be God's instrument of filling "all things" with the glory at Christ. How?

I. Guiding Principles

- A. God give a variety of gifts to those He intends to lead His church. (v.11)
- B. God gives one central purpose to all leaders: to equip the saints for the Work of Ministry (v.12-14)
- C. God gives the saints a primary tool for ministry: to speak the Truth in Love (v15a)

II. Required Practices (v.15)

- A. We must say what is true (v.15a)
- B. We must only say what is provable (v.15b)
- C. We must only say what is loving (v.12, 15-16, 29)

III. Redemptive Priorities

- A. Are my words opening conversations (or closing them)?
- B. Are my words building up or tearing down

Conclusion: Poison or Antidote