"Jesus—the Honest One"
May 27, 2012

Proverbs 12:17- "Speak truth" ***(to sustain an atmosphere of fidelity, security; to be trustworthy; to resist communication that is indirect, subtle, or implied)***

Proverbs 24:26- Be "straightforward; to be in front of" ***(not behind the back)***

Proverbs 27:6- "Faithful wounds" ***(to support, build up, confirm, parent)***

<u>PROP</u>- Jesus is all about honesty.

1. **<u>Jesus did not come to CONDEMN—but He did come to CONFRONT.</u>**

Romans 11:22- "Kindness and severity" You can't separate His kindness from His honesty—comes to "sever" us from deception. (NOTE: When you watch Jesus—you are watching **LOVE personified!**)

People "perish" when they "refuse to love the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10). That's why He was BOLDLY HONEST (not brutally).

Luke 11:37-39- BOLD when exposing Pharisees' hypocrisy (Results? See Nicodemus' comments in John 3)

Luke 10:38-40- Confronted Martha—who was critical of her sister to cover her own lack (Jesus took her aside to speak to issues of her heart (NOTE: Softer words for softer hearts)

LOVE is the courage to say what everyone else knows—but is afraid to say!

2. **<u>Jesus will OFFEND US to MEND US.</u>**

Jesus is "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense" (Romans 9:33)

When He offends us—the problem is not with Jesus. Anything that is not like Him inside our hearts is "<u>offend-able</u>."

i.e., Jesus "offended" a "rich, young ruler"—to bring him to freedom from the love of money (Mark 10:17-23→ Mark 14:51)

i.e., Jesus "offended" 7 churches to make them "overcomers" (Revelation 1-3)

John 15:2- "Every branch that <u>does</u> bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful"

3. **<u>Jesus' TRUTH is His REALITY.</u>**

His life in us is <u>not</u> "make-believe"—it's believe; not "too good to be true"—it's BOTH true and good; not "surreal"—it's real.

"Spirit of truth" (REALITY)—"taking what is Mine and making it known to you" (John 16:14).

He wants His truth in our "inward parts" (Psalm 51:6)

John 16:7-11-
"Convict"- *provide convincing proof*
"Sin"- *every barrier on God's side was removed at the Cross—the only remaining barriers are on <u>our side</u>*
"Righteousness"- *upon receiving the* ***"gift of repentance" (the capacity to change****) you are NOW* ***"right with" Him—accepted, adopted, transformed***
"Judgment"- *nothing in hell can keep you from Him or separate you from His love!*

<u>RESPONSE</u>

1. **Love requires honesty.**
   (Wouldn't you rather have a friend take the risk…speaking loving, direct words RE: a hindering issue in your life THAN superficial words in a superficial relationship) "He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise" (Proverbs 15:31)

2. **Honesty avoids the extremes of "buttering up" (flattery) or "blowing up" (pent-up frustration).**

3. **(Ephesians 4:14-16) is not a license to kill with our words—but an expression of love that breaks deception** ***(NOTE: "The truth" is declaring the reality of who we really are; receive it; dismantle your "affirmation deflectors"—****"Nah…you're just trying to make me feel good.")*