

## Erring on the side of love?

1. Meme seen online: "We all make errors in our theology; you and me both. So my recommendation is to error on the side of love. Why? Because God is not doctrine. God is not denomination. God is not war. God is not law. God is not hate. God is not hell. God is Love."
  - a. What is good about that?
  - b. Are there any "red flags" and if so, what?
  - c. How is John 1:1 applicable here?
  - d. How is 2 Timothy 3:16 applicable here?
  - e. How is Revelation 19:11 applicable here?
  - f. How is Matthew 5:17-18 applicable here?
  - g. How is Romans 1:18 applicable here?
  - h. 1 John 4:8 is true, but how does the culture misuse this verse?
2. What is the relationship between God's holiness and love?
3. Another meme about the Bible being clear about a group being bad, but then someone comes along and turns that on its head and it concludes with "The story may begin with prejudice, discrimination and animosity, but the Spirit moves God's people towards openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance and affirmation."
  - a. Does this sound loving?
  - b. Any "red flags" and if so, what?
  - c. What is redemption?
  - d. How have you changed since becoming a Christian?
  - e. What does the culture do with concepts like openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance and affirmation?
  - f. When do such things honor God?

4. Another meme: "If your theology doesn't lead you to love people more, you should question your theology."
  - a. Agree or disagree?
  - b. Any "red flags" and if so, what?
  - c. What is of utmost importance when considering the meaning, whether it's reputable or not?
5. What is the relationship between love and truth (consider Ephesians 4:15, 1 Corinthians 13:6)?
6. What is the result of truth without love (consider 1 Corinthians 13)?
7. What is the result of "love" without truth?
8. How is "love" without truth an idol?
9. What's a way you can engage a person who takes on the aforementioned memes without considering the truth of the Bible? How can you respect their dignity while speaking truth?
10. As we speak the truth of the Bible or express agreement with it, some will say what we claim is wrong or evil. What does the Bible say about that (consider Isaiah 5:20)?
11. If someone claims we are evil for having a Biblical perspective, how can we engage?
12. Multiple Choice: What is relevant when considering the truth of something?
  - a. The culture thinking something is acceptable.
  - b. People voting for it.
  - c. A court case supporting it.
  - d. What you think about it.
  - e. What I think about it.
  - f. What God thinks about it.
13. How does Isaiah 55:8-9 help with the selection in the prior question?
14. Considering the above 2 questions, what is our role?
15. Does agreeing with the Bible that something is a sin abase persons struggling with that sin?
16. Is it okay to abase persons struggling with sin? Why or why not?
17. Are we any better than persons struggling with a particular sin? What does this reveal? What does 1 John 1:8 tell us?

18. How does 1 John 2:15-17 bring clarity to not compromising while respecting the dignity of others?
19. What is the problem with the term “my truth”?
20. What is the second greatest commandment Jesus tells us in Mark 12:31? How does that apply in regards to loving oneself?
21. Biblically, what does loving oneself mean? What does it not mean?
22. How does God desire for us to change? Who helps us to do so? What is sanctification?
23. If I don't like your sports team, does that mean I hate you? How is this applicable?
24. A lot of people say that echoing or speaking the truth is “judgy” and then say, “He who is without sin cast the first stone” as a way to silence those who would speak the truth. Read John 8:1-11. How does the full context and Jesus' response to the woman caught in sin bring clarity and understanding?
25. What does compassion for a broken and lost person look like?
26. What happens if we celebrate the brokenness of that person?
27. When accused of ignorance, why can we still move forward with confidence in the truth?
28. If someone uses a Bible verse to attack a Biblical perspective, how can we engage?

<http://beacondeacon.com/ichthus/personal/erring-on-the-side-of-love.html>