

## Sermon Discussion Questions for August 29, 2021

### *Ephesians – Dangerous Ways to Compromise the Truth – Acts 18-19*

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#### Scripture & Message Review

Read Acts 18:24-26 & Acts 19:1-4.

- What is the difference between the message of John the Baptist and the message of Christ? How did John's message prepare people for Jesus' message?
- What is wrong with just telling people to repent, stop sinning, and live right?
- How common do you believe it is that people believe the way to be right with God is just to try harder to do better?
- How can we help people understand the true gospel?

Read Acts 19:8-10.

- Why do you think that the Christian faith was called "the Way" in verse 9?
- What impresses you about what Paul did in these verses?
- In the spirit of Paul's "every day" (vs. 9) witness of the truth, how can our church (the people of our church) have a daily witness in our community?
- When Paul and some of his readers disagreed, Paul did not compromise his message. How is that approach different from what is often seen today?
- What is wrong with determine what is true by asking these questions...
  - What works for me?
  - What seems best for today?
  - What is my truth?
  - What enhances my freedom?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:8-9.

- What did Paul refuse to let deter him from the opportunity to speak the truth and share the gospel?
- If people might be offended by the truth, should we speak the truth anyway? Why or why not?
- How can we speak the truth without being jerks?
- How does our silence and failure to speak the truth communicate a different truth?

#### Big Questions

- How should we handle a situation where an authority (boss, teacher, government official) tells us we cannot speak the truth of God's word?
- How would Paul live differently than you do if he worked where you work, went to school where you go to school, or had the family and friends you have?

#### Bonus Question

- From a philosophical point of view, why do people think that the following statement is an expression of hate: "Homosexual practice is sin."