



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, February 8, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 4:14-16

TITLE: The Prescription for Spiritual Sickness

A few years ago, my wife and I went on a whale-watching cruise in Monterey, California. This was a bucket list thing for my wife, so I was happy to do it. We both love the ocean. On our 4 hour excursion, we saw dolphins, killer whales, and a blue whale. But let me tell you, as a Nebraska native, after that 3-hour mark of the tossing and turning of the boat, I was feeling my sea legs give out. I was being thrown here and there and began to be ill.

Did you know the same thing can happen to us with our spiritual walk with Christ? It's true. But the good news is, God provides the spiritual Dramamine to cure the problem. Let's listen to the Apostle Paul give us the proper prescription:

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (Eph. 4:14-16, NLT)

In the previous few verses, Paul has challenged believers to become all God saved them to be. And he continues here by saying, when we lean into the change God is doing, we will grow up. We won't be like children, who can be immature and swayed easily by an enticing treat or distracting enticement.

Well, what can pull a believer away from godly living? Paul says, "new teaching". What does that mean? Well, in Paul's day, people would twist the word of God, and pull people away from the faith. It's not so different today. Go to a bookstore and look at the spirituality section; you'll find many religious works, including false Christian teaching.

I can't tell you how many times I've been in Bible studies, or after church discussions, where people share their spiritual influencers, who are heretics, cult leaders, and blatant false teachers. They are being tossed and turned in their faith, which makes them spiritually unstable and sick.

What's the solution? Well, according to Paul, it's sound doctrine. It's the Bible. It's going back to the Bible, to see what God has said. It's clinging to and speaking the truth in love.

You see, people think love is blind acceptance and endorsement. But that's not love. That's hate. Love involves truth and discernment, no matter the cost.

My challenge for you today is to come back to the Bible and seek the truth. There are many good teachers and preachers who are faithful to the word of God, but there are many more false teachers. So I challenge you to seek the truth. Filter what you read here, and see through God's Word. Pursue truth, and I promise you it will always lead you back to Christ.