

Epistle 64

by George Fox

George Fox emphasizes the importance of speaking God's word faithfully, serving one another in love, and striving for unity in the spirit.

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:28

Topics: "Faithful Obedience", "Christian Humility"

Description

George Fox emphasizes the importance of speaking the word of the Lord faithfully, without adding or diminishing from it, as it is sharper than a two-edged sword to cut down deceit and purify the speaker. He encourages believers to serve one another in love, following the example of Christ, and to walk in truth and love to bring joy and unity in the Lord. Fox reminds the congregation to humble themselves, fear the Lord, and condescend to those of low degree, for the pure in heart see God.

Transcript

All Friends, who are moved of the Lord to speak the word of the Lord, whom the Lord hath made to be his mouth, speak not your own words to feed the sensual part of man in your own wills; for there God is not honoured, and wisdom is not justified [Mat 11:19]. But ye that are moved to speak in steeple-houses, or to the priests, (who have not the word of the Lord, but the letter,) speak the word of the Lord faithfully [Jer 23:28], neither add to it with your reason, nor diminish from it [Deut4:2] with a disobedient mind; but speaking the word of the Lord faithfully it is sharper than a two-edged sword [Heb 4:12], to cut down all deceit, and as a fire to burn up the chaff [Mat 3:12]; and it purifies you that speak it [1 Pet 1:22]: and so as a hammer it will break down all the contrary [Jer 23:29]. And the word is but one, which sanctifies all [1 Tim 4:5], and cleanseth the heart, and sanctifies and reconciles to God. And the light is but one; and all being guided by it, all are subject to one, and are one in the unity of the spirit [Eph 4:3]. And if your minds turn from the light, and that mind speak of the light, there gets up pride, and presumption, and the will; and then ye begin to strike your fellow-servants [Mat 24:49].

Therefore, all dear friends and brethren, be servants to the truth, and do not strive for mastery, but serve one another in love [Gal 5:13]. Wash one another's feet, take Christ for your example [John 13:14], that I may hear of no strife among you: but all walk in the truth, and in the love of it, up to God, for there ye are my joy and crown [Phil 4:1] in the Lord. Children would be striving; but that which would have the mastery, must die, and shall not enter into the kingdom of God. Therefore mind not high things, but fear, and condescend to men of low degree [Rom 12:16]; for the fear of the Lord keeps the heart clean, and the

pure in heart see God [Mat 5:8].

And, friends, spread yourselves abroad [Zech 2:6], that ye may be serviceable for the Lord and his truth, and get over the head of the wicked, and trample all that which is contrary to God under your feet [Psa 91:13?]; that ye may answer that of God in every one. And him, who was promised to be the covenant of God to the Gentiles [Isa 42:6], and the new covenant to the Jews [Jer 31:31], hold forth to them both; that all may know him their leader to God, and the prisoner to come forth unto him.

G. F.

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