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**SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE: THE VOICE OF CHARLEY GARLAND**

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head* (Ephesians 4:15).

One reason the early WELS missionaries were allowed on the Apache reservations was the Government’s insistence that they would open schools so that children would be taught to read, write, and display “proper etiquette” (W. Kessel 1995:19). The Lutherans seized the opportunity and started schools in Peridot and in East Fork.

By the time the Guenthers arrived in East Fork the fledgling parochial school had faltered and closed. Guenther was expected to re-open the school, which he did. The missionary husband and wife team were running themselves ragged making school furniture, typing school lessons, teaching, providing a noon meal for the students, and doing a myriad of other tasks. And, yes, even missionaries reach the limit of their frustration. One day the students were restless and could care less about the subject matter. Guenther boiled over. He later wrote:

I let loose in terms that left no one in doubt what I thought of them at the

moment, collectively and individually. During the following recess Charlie Garland

went over to the house, and, without preamble, said to Mrs. Guenther, “**When somebody talk mad to me I feel like to fight in pieces**,” then turned on his heel and

left the room (E. Guenther 1956-1957:110).

Of course, Mrs. Guenther had no idea what Charlie was talking about, but Missionary Guenther knew. Charlie was only a first grader in the Lutheran school, but with one sentence he became the teacher. He not only provided a keen insight into Apache culture, but he also laid down the law in no uncertain terms. Guenther accepted this admonition and repentance was forthcoming. *Speak the truth in love* (Ephesians 4:15) was the lesson learned. Guenther later wrote (1956-1957:110): “Too bad that to this very day one runs across teachers and professors who have not learned that a fatherly or brotherly heart to heart talk in private will accomplish more than a dozen ‘dressing-downs’ which betray only cowardice at their best.”

As a postscript, it should be noted that little Charlie Garland became Pastor Guenther’s favorite student. Later he joined the Guenther family on a car ride all the way to the Midwest and back. And THE WORD OF THE LORD GROWS.

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

1. Was Rev. Guenther wrong in the way he scolded his students?

2. Did Charlie Garland have a right to reprimand his teacher, and did he go about it correctly?

3. What brought about peace between Garland and Guenther?

4. What lasting lessons were learned?

**LAW AND GOSPEL BASICS**

The two major teachings (doctrines) of the Bible are the Law and the Gospel.

1. The Law, summarized in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5), has a triple purpose.

a. Read 1 Timothy 1:9-10 and Romans 2:14-15. The Law serves as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “to check to some extent the coarse outbreak of sin, thereby also helping to preserve order in this sinful world” (Gausewitz 1956:91)

b. Read Romans 3:20 and 7:7. The Law serves as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to show us our sins and

need of a Savior.

c. Read Psalm 119:9, 105 and Romans 12:1-2. The Law serves as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to lead

the Christian in God-pleasing and thankful living.

2. The Gospel, summarized in John 3:16, is the Good News of Jesus and the salvation he purchased for all people. It has a dual purpose.

a. Read Luke 2:11 and Romans 1:16 The Gospel reveals the Savior, who is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

and has the power to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. The Gospel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Christian to live as a

redeemed child of God.

**CONTRITION, REPENTANCE, FORGIVENESS**

1. Contrition

a. Once the mirror of the Law has shown a believer his/her sin, it leads to contrition.

b. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10 and Psalm 38:18. What is contrition? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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c. Read Psalm 51:4. Ultimately all sin is against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Repentance

a. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Godly sorrow brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Read Psalm 51:17. What is repentance?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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c. Read Luke 3:8. What follows repentance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d. Read Ephesians 5:9 and Galatians 5:22-23. What characterizes the repentant life? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Forgiveness

a. Read 2 Corinthians 5:19 and Psalm 85:2-3 and Jeremiah 31:34. What does it mean that God forgives us? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Read Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13. How should a Christian respond to a fellow

Christian who repents? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Analyze this. John Wayne (Captain Nathan Brittles) in the movie, “She Wore a Yellow Ribbon” made this remark. “Never apologize, mister. It’s a sign of weakness.” Compare and contrast this to the teaching of Contrition and Repentance.

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

1. Question. Was Rev. Guenther wrong in the way he reprimanded his students?

a. Did Charley Garland think Guenther was wrong? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Did Rev. Guenther soon realize that he was wrong? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c. But was Rev. Guenther’s outburst wrong according to the Bible?

1) The Latin phrase *in loco parentis* means that a teacher or other adult is responsible for

a child or children “in the place of a parent.” At school Guenther was serving as a “parent.”

2) Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21. Parents are not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their children. Did Guenther do this? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Question. Did Charlie Garland have a right to reprimand his teacher, and did he go about it correctly?

a. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and Luke 17:3. Was Charley right when he called Rev. Guenther’s

behavior into question? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Read Matthew 18:15. In hindsight, would it have been more appropriate for Charley to

go directly to Missionary Guenther with his grievance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Question. What brought about peace between Garland and Guenther?

a. Read 1 John 1:8-9. Did Rev. Guenther acknowledge his wrong approach? In other words,

did he exhibit contrition and repentance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Which statement made by Rev.

Guenther supports your answer?

b. Read Ephesians 4:32. What evidence is there that Charlie Garland forgave Rev. Guenther and did not hold a grudge? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. What lasting lessons were learned?

a. Ephesians 4:15. Speak the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b. Proverbs 15:1. A harsh word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but a gentle answer

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