

WoW Nation

Scripture: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32 NIV).

An Inconvenient Truth

The 2006 documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, was a tremendous success. The film, based on a slide show presentation by former Vice-President Al Gore, earned nearly \$50 million at the box office—a huge feat for a documentary. It also won critical acclaim around the world and earned two Academy Awards for its creators. The film addresses the often controversial topic of climate change, particularly global warming, and its impact on the earth. Controversy aside, the title of the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, presents an interesting point—the truth, at times, may be inconvenient, ugly or even uncomfortable. At other times, the truth may actually hurt. However, at all times the truth is profitable because it creates opportunities for growth and improvement.

To be sure, we’re living in perilous times, in part because of economic uncertainty, and in part due to crime, wars and any number of social ills. Even more dangerous, perhaps, is the fact that we’re living in a time when people are becoming increasingly hostile towards the truth. On any given day, the truth is refuted, despised or rejected. And those who dare to speak the truth are maligned and ostracized or worse. It’s true. Think about it. Nowadays, clergy members get criticized for speaking the truth. Politicians get censured for speaking the truth. Media personalities get fired for speaking the truth. And entertainers get blacklisted for speaking the truth. Likewise, in personal relationships some people fly off the handle if you tell them the truth. Others have meltdowns if you share with them the truth. Still others get cross with you if you dare tell them the truth.

The concept of “itching ears” is not new. In fact, it’s referenced in the Apostle Paul’s second letter to Timothy. “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their *itching ears* want to hear” (II Tim. 4:3 NIV). To a degree, we see evidence of that notion in the previously described scenarios. Increasingly, people are surrounding themselves with those who will tell them what they *want* to hear as opposed to what they *need* to hear, the truth, which is much more beneficial to them in the long run.

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As women of God, we can ill afford to fall into that same trap. In fact, we have a responsibility both to *seek* the truth and to *speak* the truth to one another as an exercise of our faith. James, the brother of Jesus, stated as much in his letter to fellow believers. He wrote, “My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20 NIV). That being the case, dear sisters, speak the truth in season and out of season. Correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction (II Tim. 4:2). Likewise, if you’re the receiver of the same, *accept it gracefully*. Remember, the wise receive instruction. But a fool will come to ruin (Prov. 10:8, Prov. 10:23, Prov. 12:15). Finally, as our Lord Jesus Christ said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32 NIV).

Be blessed.

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