



OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE · SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Teach Truth with Love

Elder Clark G. Gilbert · Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Words to remember

- *“It takes courage to stand for truth. It takes even more courage to stand for truth with love.”*
- *“For disciples of Jesus Christ, truth and love always walk together. I believe teaching truth with love will be the hallmark of Christ’s disciples in the last days.”*

In Elder Clark G. Gilbert’s own words, from the talk.

Elder Clark G. Gilbert of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles began, “It takes courage to stand for truth. It takes even more courage to stand for truth with love.” President Dallin H. Oaks has often taught this. Elder Gilbert worried that some listeners would hold on only to truth, and others only to love.

He remembered when President Russell M. Nelson spoke about being a peacemaker. Elder Gilbert started a mental list of everyone he thought needed that message. Then President Nelson asked each of us to look deeply into our own hearts. Elder Gilbert invited us to do the same.

Years ago, he and President Oaks spoke together at an Ensign College devotional called Standing Fast with Love and Proclaiming Truth. Elder Gilbert shared five principles from it.

First, avoid overly contentious settings. Elder Neil L. Andersen said that sometimes being a peacemaker means resisting the impulse to respond. Elder Gilbert once had a friend who had been faithful but was now attacking the Church. Elder Gilbert was frustrated and shot back an angry reply. “I may have won the debate in the moment, but I lost the Spirit and I failed to help my struggling friend.” He learned that what looks like hostility can be hidden pain.

Second, first find common ground. A stake president once asked him to make ministering visits, and Elder Gilbert suggested just one home. When they arrived, five people were waiting, each with a completely different story. Elder Gilbert listened for nearly two hours. When he invited them to stake conference that evening, every one of them came. Listening first let him later teach from a place of love.

Third, be a light. President Nelson taught us to let doubting friends see how much we love the Lord. “The best way to help someone else keep their covenants is to keep your covenants.” Once, when academic leaders criticized faith in a tense meeting, Elder Gilbert chose not to argue. Later, perhaps

partly because of that, a university chancellor asked for his counsel on a course about character. “Being a light opens more doors than any pointed argument ever will.”

Fourth, hold to truth even when reaching out. Showing love does not mean giving up our values. President Jeffrey R. Holland said that Christ never once withheld His love from anyone, but He also never once said to anyone, “Because I love you, you are exempt from keeping my commandments.” President D. Todd Christofferson taught that putting the first commandment, loving God, first actually strengthens our love for others. The Savior showed love to a woman who had sinned and also told her to go and sin no more.

Fifth, stay anchored in Jesus Christ. Elder Gilbert read that charity suffereth long, and is kind, is not puffed up, and rejoices in the truth. He asked us to check whether we have these qualities when we stand for truth.

He closed, “For disciples of Jesus Christ, truth and love always walk together.” He believes teaching truth with love will be a hallmark of Christ’s disciples in the last days.

Scripture to look up: Moroni 7:45. Charity suffereth long, and is kind and rejoices in the truth, so disciples teach truth with love.

Let’s talk about it

What did this talk teach us about the Savior? What is one small thing our family can do this week?

Kid-friendly summary in our own words · Read or watch the full talk: [churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/59gilbert](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/59gilbert)