

What is Truth?

No test! I just want us to consider what is **Truth?** Christianity 101 is more than clear: **Truth** – is what God says. **Faith** – is acting like God tells the truth.

It seems the leadership in most of our world, our country, our giant corporations, our education systems, and our media have been at work to set the standard that lying and misleading is now the norm. There is a mentality throughout our culture now that truth is no longer relevant. Yet, truth is the single foundation stone for trust. Trust requires faith, and we are nearing the point when no one trusts anyone anymore. Clearly, the socialists are winning the war and we seem to be closing in on the point of no return.

In discussions with other Christians I am appalled at how little most believers trust in the message of God's Word. The Apostle Paul and the author of Hebrews both noted:

Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labor with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:28-29

And by his one perfect sacrifice he made us perfectly holy and complete for all time! Hebrews 10:14

As Ian Thomas stated, **"Most believers spend their life trying to become who they already are!"** You say, "Well, I'm not perfect!" Of course, if you're talking about your thinking and actions you're correct. But let me remind you that those are body and soul issues. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ then — spiritually, you are one with Christ — you're spirit and his Holy Spirit are one — eternally joined. You, by your identity, are a spiritual being — chosen, transformed, complete, and perfect....forever! To quote our Lord — "It's finished."

As Edith Ann used to say on Laugh In — **"....and that's the trutthhh."**

So I challenge you, do you really believe what God says about you? Can you accept the truth that your identity is spiritual and perfect, even though your actions and thoughts may sometimes be less than Godly.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Paul warned us that the truth will be open to attack. In our present so-called advanced culture, a study a few years ago found that "sixty-six percent agreed with the statement, "There is no such thing as absolute truth!" And if you think our Christian communities are wiser than that, "....fifty-three percent of adults in churches believe there is no absolute truth." And that goes up to fifty-seven percent for the youth in our churches. ¹

2 Tim 4:3-4 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. They will reject the truth and follow strange myths.

Paul challenged the Galatians: **Gal. 5:7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?** Ah...."obeying the truth" — Faith is acting like God tells the truth! As Christians we must learn to believe in, have faith in, and rely upon, absolute truth.

Let me hit you with an example: Do you become a Christian through good works?i.e. *You must DO in order to BE*. Ding! False! The truth, according to God's Word is: You become a Christian by faith alone in Christ alone. You have to BE in order to DO any form of good works. When the disciples asked Christ what they must do to do the works of God, his answer was very simple — **"Believe!" John 6:28-29**

Relativism is the world's view of truth — the idea that everyone's truth is relative to that person's perception of anything. Put simply, you have your truth and I have mine. Simple example: If you and I are talking and I put my hand on my ear and say, "My hand is on my right ear," the relativist says my statement is relative, because to him/her, as we face each other.... my hand is on my left ear from their view. To think like that requires that you take my statement out of the context of who made the statement.

This is precisely what the world does with God's Word. They reduce it to some printed words on a page and in doing so, reduce God's sovereignty to a powerless non-entity. Thus they take him out of our schools, culture & society. As a result the Bible (God's Word) becomes relative to how it is seen by whomever might be reading it.

A leading Christian professor and apologist with numerous books, makes a very good point on this.

All Truth is absolute. There are no relative truths. For if something is really true, then it is really true for everyone, everywhere, and for all time. The truth statement $7 + 3 = 10$ is not just true for mathematics majors, nor is it true only in a math classroom. It is true for everyone everywhere at all times.

The writer goes on to say — **If truth is relative, then no one is ever wrong— even when they are. As long as something is true to me, then I'm right even when I'm wrong.**²

Let's face it, absolute truth puts a limit on things. It establishes absolute authority. It stirs controversy and debate. That is why Christians are considered "extremists" and "intolerant."

A famous British Catholic author is quoted as saying: **"....tolerance is the virtue of those who don't believe in anything."**³

Philosophers have argued for centuries over "What is Truth!" The reason they can't decide is because of the one who made truth an absolute — our Creator.

If you recall, Pilate, in confronting Jesus, questioned the very idea of absolute truth....

John 18:36-38a Jesus answered Pilate, "I am not an earthly king. If I were, my followers would have fought when I was arrested by the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world." Pilate replied, "You are a king then?" "You say that I am a king, and you are right," Jesus said. "I was born for that purpose. And I came

to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."
Pilate asked "What is truth?"

Pilate's implication was....there is no such thing as **absolute** truth. Sound familiar? From Pilate's perspective the context of "who said it" had no meaning in his life.

Paul reminded us of the power of truth:

2 Thess. 2:13from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Isaiah spoke of God's displeasure regarding truth:

Isa. 59:15 Truth was nowhere to be found.... and it displeased Him that there was no judgement.

We seem to have an entire nation that turns on the winds of the latest polls. We might just consider the biblical example of polling which took place while Moses was on the mountain getting God's law written down. Meanwhile his brother Aaron was taking a poll of the people. Of course they ended up worshipping a golden calf. So much for polls!

We really don't need a seminary degree to read and understand God's instructions for acceptable living.

Eph 4:24-32 (NLT) You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness — righteous, holy, and true. So put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other. And don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil. If you are a thief, stop stealing. Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need. Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

What part of that requires a seminary degree or denominational committee to help us understand? Just read it, then....

Trust and obey.

Prov. 23:23 Buy the truth (it costs) and do not sell it; get wisdom (right thinking), discipline (correct action), and understanding (revelation).

Eph. 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.

Do we really believe God enough to trust him? Do we trust him enough to obey his ways knowing that obedience is our part in advancing his kingdom?

"The golden rule for spiritual understanding is not intellect, but obedience."⁴

"All true knowledge of God is born out of obedience."⁵

“Eternal Truths are not truths we can come to learn on our own account. Human beings need help to gain access to these truths; they have to be revealed. Eternal Truth has to do with what it is to be a self, what it is to be a human being. Only God can restore the sinful condition and communicate this Truth. Sin is due to a human refusal to accept the fact that reason is not supreme and that faith calls us beyond reason. Unless this is accepted, understanding Truth is impossible.”⁶

Faith & Trust in the Truth — the combination that gives us the power to change and align our mind with God's calling on us as his beloved children.

When you doubt God, you are doubting one of two things about him: his power or his love. Either you doubt that he can help you, or else you doubt that he wants to. To doubt the first is absurd and to doubt the second is unthinkable.”⁷

The reason many of us read and study the scriptures nearly every day is to fill our hearts with God's eternal truth! **“And that's the tru.....”** — well, you know!

**I just want to obey all you ask of me.
So teach me, Lord, for you are my God.
Your gracious Spirit is all I need, so lead me on good paths
that are pleasing to you, my one and only God!
Psalms 143:10**

1 evidenceandanswers.org

2 Norman Geisler, Christian professor and apologist

3 G. K. Chesterton, British Catholic author

4 Oswald Chambers

5 John Calvin

6 Soren Kierkegaard, Christian theologian/philosopher

7 Dr. John White, from The Fight