

## A Biblical Look at Truth

Vocabulary:

- Philosophy – the love of wisdom
- Epistemology – The branch of philosophy that studies the nature of knowledge, its presuppositions and foundations, and its extent and validity
- Wisdom - The ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting
- Logic – The study or use of reason

What is Truth?

Characteristics of the Christian definition of Truth:

- Truth is a characteristic of God
- Exists only because God created it in the universal realm. Truth cannot exist outside of God's creation of it.
- Truth is Propositional – can be stated in propositions or 'true or false statements.' The Bread is made with wheat. The bread is either made with wheat or not made with wheat.
- Truth is absolute
- Directly corresponds with the way things are. For example if the Bible says that Christ rose on the third day then His corpse miraculously arose on the third day.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Passages for Study***

Romans 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. <sup>25</sup>For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Summary of Truth entry in Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, edited and partially written by Norm Geisler.

1. What does this say about the starting point for the non-believer in being able to define and clearly articulate truth?
2. What are some of the quality 'trade-offs' between God and creation? What characteristics does God have compared to the characteristics of His creation?
3. Is there hope for these corrupt people?

Conclusion: Mankind, due to the corruption of sin, is incapable of finding truth on his own. God revealed truth but mankind rejected it.

Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>11</sup>And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup>but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:20-21,25

20But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ... 25Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.

1. What has God done to preserve the truth within the Church?
2. How are we supposed to deliver the truth?
3. What is the result of truth within the body?
4. What does this say about denominationalism and separation of believers based on doctrinal differences?

2 Timothy 2:15

<sup>15</sup>Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

1. Who is this written to?
2. How should this affect the believer when they look for a church home?

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

1. When did/does this 'time' come?
2. Don't you feel blessed to have the Bible, preserved and true?

### ***Four Truth Questions***

1) Is there *absolute* Truth?

Proverbs 22:20, 21; Hebrews 13:8

Yes\_\_ No\_\_

2) Is that Truth *singular*?

John 14:6; John 18:37

Yes\_\_ No\_\_

3) Has the Truth been *given*?

Psalm 119:160; John 17:17; Revelation 1:1,2

Yes\_\_ No\_\_

4) Is the (*absolute, singular, given*) Truth *knowable*?

John 8:31,32; I John 5:13,20

Yes\_\_ No\_\_