

What is Truth?

Class Three

‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’

John 8:31-32

What is Truth?

- Pilot understood the political consequences of power
 - John 18:37, Pilate asks, "So you are a king?" Jesus responds, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."
- Resigned or cynical to the reality of the day
 - John 18:38: "Pilate said to him, '**What is truth?**' After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, 'I find no guilt in him'"

Pre-Modernism to Post-Modernism

Period

- Worldview:
 - Truth:
 - Ethics:
- Society:
- Timeline:

Pre-Modernism

- God centered
- Absolute/Divine
- Gods Rights
- Hierarchy
- Pre-17th Century

Modernism

- Reason centered
- Objective/Science
- Human Rights
- Democracy
- 17th to 20th Century

Post-Modernism

- Human centered
- Subjective/Cultural
- Individual Rights
- Deconstructed
- 20th to Current

The World has Changed **Dramatically**

- The Conservative Christian is besieged...
 - Humanism = Created an Anti-God atheistic social order
 - Subjective Truth = Moral Relativism
 - Alternative Lifestyles and Gender Ideology
 - Personal Rights trump everyone else's rights
 - Disrespect of Authority = Increase of Crime, Disorder
- No one is righteous in Gods eyes
 - **Isaiah 5:20** "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter."

**Be not
Ashamed!**

The **Issues** for the Christian 'Churches'

- Many major Christian denominations capitulating
 - Roman Catholic, United and the Anglican Churches accept evolution, promote social justice issues, and accept and promote modern interpretations of scripture based on 'new' social norms
 - United and Anglican Churches *all of the above* + support transgenderism, gay rights, priests and marriage.
 - Anglican Church *all of the above* + is the most progressive and will literally ordain anyone as a pastor, *even an atheist*
- *All these denominations are declining in NA*

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What is Our **Source** of Truth?

- What consumes our time and our mind?
 - We spend avg 11 hours a day consuming media
 - Older Adults: 68% use Facebook, 70% use YouTube
 - Younger Adults: 78% use IG, 62% use TikTok
 - 40% Young Adults get *all of their information* from TikTok
 - 5.6M Podcasts are currently available!
- How much time consuming Gods word?
 - Jeremiah 15:16 "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty."

Can We Tell Truth from Deception?

- What is the filter by which we see the world?
 - 1 John 4:1 "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."
- Wise as Serpents and Innocent as Doves?
 - Mat 10:16 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be **wise as serpents and innocent as doves**."

Relativism and Subjective Truth

- The world would love to believe in Subjective Truth
 - 2Ti 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...
- The antidote to this is Gods Absolute truth
 - Psalm 119:160 "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."

Downplaying the Problem of Sin

- Society is Downplaying or denying the existence of sin
 - Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Isa 59:14-17
- God has a solution for our sin — forgiveness
 - 1 John 1:8-9: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

The Cutting Away of Truth

- What happens when we hear difficult Truths?
 - **Jeremiah 36:23:** "As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot."
- Or do we tremble at it?
 - **Isa 66:2** All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Truth of the 2-Edged Sword

- The Word of God is the arbiter of all truth
 - Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- The two-edged sword cuts both ways
 - Jer 17:10 "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

Is There Truth if we **Don't Speak?**

- We must be the watchmen of our time
 - Ezekiel 33:8-9 Verse: "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood."
- We must speak when we are compelled
 - Ephesians 4:25: "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

Speaking the **Inconvenient** Truth!

- We must be ready to speak of Gods truth - anytime
 - Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching (2 Tim 4:1-5)
- The Truth of God is uplifting and life giving
 - Psalm 19:8 "The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes."

Be Not Ashamed of The Truth

1. "I understand that not everyone believes in the Bible, but for me, it's the ultimate truth that shapes who I am. I'm not ashamed of my faith, and I'm willing to stand up for what I believe in." Hebrews 4:12
2. "I believe the Bible is God's Word, and it provides the truth that guides my life. Even if others disagree, I stand by it because I know it is the foundation of my faith." Rom 1:16

Q: "What do you believe is the basis for truth, and how do you determine what is right or wrong?"

"I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation."

Psalm 40:9-10

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