

ABSOLUTE TRUTH

We live in a culture that believes something can be true for you and something else can be true for me. Do you believe this? If true, it means there is no such thing as truth. And that can't be true. To understand such statements, there must be an objective standard, a yardstick of truth, apart from opinion. It's what the theologian-philosopher Francis Schaeffer spoke of as "true truth." It's the very nature of God.

"The LORD is the true God, He is the living God and the everlasting king" (Jeremiah 10:10). "The LORD is the God of truth" (Isaiah 65:16). It is impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18). Psalm 119:160 exults, "The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." God's words and actions never contradict His wholly holy eternal and immutable attributes. God IS truth.

#1- God is ABSOLUTE truth, the source of all that is true. The world demands an accurate keeper of time. Two years ago the USA unveiled an atomic clock three times more accurate than previous, so that in 15 billion years it will not gain or lose one second. Yet in terms of personal beliefs, people rebel against an absolute measure of truth. Why? It must lie outside yourself. The final arbiter must be God Himself, your Creator. You cannot be a standard because you are subjective, derived, finite. You cannot know everything. Christians live by the "correspondence theory" of truth. As RC Sproul explains, truth is that which corresponds to reality, as perceived by God, who knows all things exhaustively. So, truth is both propositional (things to be believed) and personal (extending from God's own nature).

The gospel of John affirms God as the external standard of truth. It presents the eternal "Word" of God who became incarnate as the Lord Jesus Christ, the truth of God in the flesh. "Word" in Greek is "logos" which refers to reason and logic, which underlie the universe. The Bible personifies this in God the Son. John 1:14, "*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" John 3:33, "*God is true, and He whom God has sent utters the words of God.*" John 8:26, "*He who sent Me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from Him.*" John 14:6 "*I am the truth.*" John 16:13, "*When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but what He hears He will speak*" from God, who is truth. In John 18:37 Jesus said, "*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.*" Pilate said, "*what is truth?*" It's a legitimate question, even when asked insincerely. Jesus had just given him the answer. HE is truth. God and His word are true, absolute, divine, objective - the external standard to which everything compares.

The Lord Jesus Christ stands as objective truth over against subjective opinion. In John 8:44 Jesus said to the lawyers, religious experts of His day, "*Why do you not understand what I say? Because you cannot bear My word. You are of your father the devil, who has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me.*" Lies are the opposite of the character of God, who is true and who is truth and who is truthful, always, perfectly. Today's lies have been drilled into humanity through postmodern relativism, which says objective truth does not exist, because each person perceives everything differently. But this only shows that we are not omniscient. There is an all-knowing Being who IS truth and knows and defines and reveals truth. God always accurately perceives and understands all reality at all times. Therefore, we can trust HIS word, as opposed to lies of the world, flesh, and devil.

"Truth holds together. All things that are true are part of truth, and stand in proper and inescapable relationship to God, who is Himself the truth," says JM Boice. Truth is absolute, distinct from falsehood or lies. God gave us the Bible, which functions as a "truth meter" for personal decisions, conversations, newscasts, TV preachers, etc. By the Bible, you can tell what is baloney, fake, misleading - by how it lines up with reality as God perceives it, as written down in the principles of the Bible. Otherwise, you could never be sure of anything, and nothing would work. But God is the arbiter and articulator, the revealer of truth, as absolute, objective, external, divine. #1- God Himself is ABSOLUTE truth. And #2- God is UNIVERSAL truth, for everyone everywhere, always. And #3- God is PERSONAL truth, that transforms your life. We'll explore these aspects in the next two columns.