

Whose truth?

I. Introduction-

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash. Mat 7:24

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children. Mat 19:14

Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true. ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Jn 18:37

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Jn 8:31

Truth=

the quality or state of being true.

consistent with the known facts and reality

"that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality"

False=

based on mistaken ideas

"that which is inconsistent with the facts or reality"

II. Do we believe that God tells us the truth?

The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever. Ps 119:160

God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind.

Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Nub 23:19

God= the supreme or ultimate reality

the Being perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness who is worshipped as creator and ruler of the universe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jc2wqBfk20E>

A. God says that the bible is the truth-

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. II Tim 3:16

B. Build our lives on the truth-

III. Reject the lies of the world-

A. The hiding and the twisting of the truth-

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. ⁴ Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. II Cor 4:3

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths. II Tim 4:3

There is no moral issue with:

Have a bby out of wedlock	74%
Looking at sexually explicit images or videos	65%
Sex between consenting adults	78%
Having an abortion	56%

You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. Mat 5:27

<https://www.culturefaith.com/americans-redefine-family-morality/>

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Rom 12:2

Jesus replied, - 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God. Mk 7:6

Why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? Lk 6:46

People who consider themselves Christians and who attend church were asked about their personal beliefs:

Have a biblical worldview 10%
 Claim God is their highest priority in life 14%
 Absolute moral truth exist, is defined in the bible 16%
<https://www.culturefaith.com/the-battle-of-the-two-worlds-2-2/>

B. We reject God's clear truth about Himself-

God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. ²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. Rom 1:18

IV. The battle for truth-

You are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. Jn 8:44

Many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. ¹² Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. Mat 24:11

A. The history of defining truth in the world-

1. God defines truth-

God has revealed Himself to us

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. ² Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. ³ They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. Ps 19:1

2. Science defines truth-

Scientific Method



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christians_in_science_and_technology

3. Truth became personal, situational and defined by our feelings and opinions

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. Jud 17:6

Decide what your personal truth is. Every single one of us has one “something we believe about ourselves. Our personal truth is what we really say to ourselves. Once you decide what your personal truth is, then you'll be less vulnerable to what others say. The stronger you feel about yourself and the more confidence you have, the more susceptibility to what others say will decline.

Dr. Phil

You are turning away from institutional claims and other people's agenda. Away from external valuations and out of social roles and into the self... whatever counterfeit safety we hold from overinvestment in people and institutions must be given up. The inner custodian, our conscience, must be unseated from the controls. No foreign or external power can direct our journey from now on. It is for each of us to find the course that is valid by our own reckoning.

Gail Sheechy, bestselling book, Passages.

B. We are calling God a liar-

1. We call God a liar when we say that are good people-

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. Jn 1:8

2. We call God a liar when we say that we do not have to obey Him-

If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. I Jn 2:4

3. We call God a liar when we say He cannot send me to hell-

Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁹ Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us. Heb 10:26 the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. Mat 25:41

4. We call God a liar when we say that there are many paths to God-

God has testified about his Son. ¹⁰ All who believe in the Son of God know in their hearts that this testimony is true. Those who don't believe this are actually calling God a liar because they don't believe what God has testified

about his Son. ¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I Jn 5:9

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6

5. We call God a liar when we say we do not have to love anybody but ourselves-

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? I Jn 4:20

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? I Jn 3:16

6. We call God a liar when we say that He is not our creator-

God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. ²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. Rom 1:18

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1

God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came. Gen 1:11

God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. Gen 1:21

God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind. Gen 1:24

God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Gen 1:27

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. Heb 11:3

V. Summary and application

A. Look for truth-

1. Proof for God and the truth of bible-

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. II Tim 3:16

2. Know Jesus-

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. Jn 14:6

B. Build our lives on the truth

Why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins. Lk 6:46