

What is Truth?

John 14:6

Apologetics 2013

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Main Idea: Jesus Christ = Truth



Biblical words for Truth

- *Alethea* - “The Greek idea of truth is therefore that which is unconcealed, unhidden, that which will bear scrutiny and investigation, that which is open to the light of day” - Kenneth Wuest
- *Emet* - “It is significant that of the Heb. words translated ‘truth’ (*emet*, *’emûnâ*), the latter is sometimes rendered...as ‘faithfulness’ (Dt. 32:4; Ho. 2:20). The OT thinks much more of the basis of truth in a reliable person than of the mere facts of the case.”
 - F.H.P. “Truth,” In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer & D. J. Wiseman, Eds., *New Bible Dictionary*, (3rd ed.) (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 1213.

Biblical reliance upon the reality of Truth

- 1 Cor. 15:14-19 Christ's Resurrection

- George Barna reported only 9% of “born again Christians” possess a biblical worldview: *A biblical worldview was defined as believing that absolute moral truths exist; that such truth is defined by the Bible; and firm belief in six specific religious views. Those views were that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life; God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He still rules it today; salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned; Satan is real; a Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people; and the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.*

“A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person’s Life,” *Barna Group*, December 1, 2003. In, Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 120.

False standards for Truth

- **Postmodernism/Relativism:** “The theory that there is no objective standard by which truth may be determined, consequently truth varies with individuals and circumstances.”
- **Parents** - “Mama & Daddy said it. Therefore, its true.”
- **Culture** - What does the statement, “I wasn’t raised that way,” say to a lost person about why you don’t do what they do?
- **Personal experience** - “I feel...I’ve experienced...I’ve come to believe...”

**“Piety requires us to honour
truth above our friends” -**

Aristotle, Book I

Metaphysics

- **John 18:33-38** “So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “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.” ³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

Jesus gives several statements that are objectively true or false

- **He is king**
- **He was born for that purpose**
- **He was to bear witness to the truth**
- **Everyone who is of the truth hears His voice**

Correspondence theory of Truth

- “To say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that it is, is false, while to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true; so that he who says of anything that it is, or that it is not, will say either what is true or what is false” - Aristotle

Correspondence theory of Truth

- *“A belief or statement is true only if it matches with, reflects or corresponds to the reality it refers to. For a statement to be true it must be factual. Facts determine the truth or falsity of a belief or a statement. It is the nature and meaning of truth to be fact dependent. In other words, for a statement to be true, there must be a truth-maker that determines its truth. A statement is never true simply because someone thinks it or utters it. **We may be entitled to our own opinions, but we are not entitled to our own facts.**”*

- Douglas Groothuis