

TRUTH IS BIBLICAL

*"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" John 14:6*

- Truth- Aletheia (al-ay-thi-a)
  - Signifies the reality lying at the basis of an appearance.
- Jesus didn't say do whatever you want, do what feels good, and there's more than one way to heaven.

WHY DOES TRUTH MATTER?

*"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10*

- People will perish because they did not love truth.
- Would people want a true answer to this question? Or a false answer.
- We must love truth.

WHY IS TRUTH SO IMPORTANT?

- Truth is important because it has consequences.
- If you think something is true, but isn't, it will affect you.
  - Example: If you believe the truth that there is no test next week, then you won't study because you don't need to. But the real truth was that there is a test next week. Because you didn't study, you did bad on the test.
  - If you believe with all your heart that there are no trucks or cars on the freeway, you would want to spend some time walking on the freeway. And you would get hit.

*"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." Hosea 4:6*

- It's important to note that lack of knowledge can destroy you.
- Truth has consequences whether you ignore or deny it.
  - Imagine you were on a journey and you had to get to Canada. But you didn't know where north was. You would probably go the wrong way.
  - Truth is like the compass for life. If we know what truth is, we know how to act and how to live.

TRUTH HAS A PURPOSE

*"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32*

- With truth, there is a purpose, and its purpose is to set us free.

- Note: The first thing we know about God isn't that He's loving, full of grace, or even faithful. The first thing we discover about God if they were to read the bible, is that "God created the heavens and the earth". The first thing we know about God is that He is the creator.
  - The main point of the bible is that there is a God!
  - If there is a God, then it affects the way we live, the way we act, the way we treat people, it changes everything.
  - If God is the creator, that means we are the creation. And if we are created, then that means there's a truth about it and a purpose on how its to be used.
- Truth and purpose go hand in hand. When we know something to be true, there is purpose.
  - With a computer, there is a purpose. There is truth and a purpose on how it's to be used. When we use something according to its purpose, it makes sense.
- There's a purpose for everything in life.
  - Truth is powerful. It explains the "why" question in life.
  - Truth explains why there's a government, it explains the family structure, our work life, and even romance.
  - Point: We are only truly set free when we are living consistently with God's truth.
- There's marks of the truth of the Creator everywhere. Truth sets us free.
  - Note: Believing is not enough if what you believe is not true. People can say "That's true for you, but not for me." While it's true that we can have different beliefs, we cannot have different truths.
  - Point: Things are not true because we believe them, but we believe that which is true.

### WHAT IS TRUTH?

- Truth: A statement is true when it matches with reality (The way the world is).
  - Truth is when we give a statement or a belief, and the world is actually the way that we describe it to be.
- How do we check to see if something is true?
  - We hear claims and then we look at the world to see if its the way we described it.
  - Something is either true or its not.
  - Everyone uses this definition of truth when it comes to everyday things: Finances, history, science, etc. BUT! As soon as issues of religion or morality come up, people will change what they mean by truth.

### SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE TRUTHS

- Subjective Truth: These truths are personal, private, and inner preferences that we have about life.
  - Example: What is your favorite ice cream? It's not external in the world, it's internal. The mere fact that you believe in it, makes it true.
- Objective Truth: These claims are facts about the world outside of us that we can discover and can be mistaken about.
  - Example: Ice cream is a cause of diabetes.
  - This is not an opinion. This is a claim about the world outside of me.

- The statement "Insulin controls diabetes" whether you knew it, believe it, or whether you don't, whether you like it or not, is an objective fact.
- Note! There are objective claims that are false.
- Point: There are internal and external claims about the world.

### EXAMPLE STATEMENTS

1. Coke is better than Pepsi.
2. Coke has fewer calories than diet coke.
3. George Washington was the first president of the United States.
4. I can bench press 300 pounds.
5. The earth is the center of the solar system.
6. Abortion is wrong.

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1. Subjective truth
  2. Objective truth, while it may not be true, it is still a claim on the outside world.
  3. Objective truth. Also note that this is a historical truth. Claims about history are objective.
  4. Objective truth. Is this something that can be truth for you and true for someone else? Is this a personal claim? No. Even though we don't know the truth about something, it's still an objective claim.
  5. Objective truth. Note that this is a scientific claim. Scientific claims are objective.
  6. This is not a historical claim, nor is it a scientific claim. This is a claim about morality. Whether something is right or wrong.

### MORALITY CLAIMS

- Are moral claims objective or subjective? Is it objective truth or moral preference?
- What if all moral claims were subjective? Could we ever judge anyone for what we thought was wrong? We couldn't. That would be like me saying you thinking chocolate ice was the best is wrong.
- Some people say "If you don't like abortion, don't have one"
  - People treat it as if it were personal preference. If you don't like coke, get a sprite. If you don't like cake, get a donut.
  - **REBUTTAL:** Are you against slavery? Yes, Well if you don't like slavery, then don't own a slave.
  - This person wasn't against slavery because he didn't like it. He was against slavery because it was **WRONG**. To degrade a human being on the basis of skin tone, race, or anything else is objectively wrong.

- There are scientific laws that we are forced to abide in.
  - The law of gravity. Even if we choose to not believe in it, it still exists and will continue to do its thing.
- In regards to scientific laws, there are also laws of morality.

*“But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds” eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” Romans 2:2-16*

- Judgment of God is according to truth.
  - Those who are against God’s truth won’t escape God’s wrath.
  - Truth is to be obeyed.
  - The law of morality is written on our hearts.
  - When people break the laws of morality, they violate God’s holy law.
- If someone says there’s no objective morality, then punch them and then cut them in line. They might say, that’s not fair, that’s not right, or you shouldn’t do that.
    - But, if someone says there’s no objective morality, it’s all subjective. But if they say that there’s no objective morals, then they cannot object to anything because it’s true for them and that should be okay.
  - There is a difference between saying “I don’t like it” and “This is wrong”

### CHRISTIAN TRUTH

1. Jesus was a carpenter.
2. Jesus died on the cross in AD 33.
3. Jesus has risen from the grave.

- These are all objective claims.

- However, when you start making these claims, people will start thinking, that's just true for you. Jesus is true for you, Buddha is true for me. Confucius, Allah, Muhammad, Joseph Smith, Evolution is true for me.
- Note: People don't die and go to hell for eternity just for not believing in Jesus. The reason why people go to hell is because we have a moral sickness called sin. We violated God's law and that is punishable by eternal death in hell's flames. To say Confucius, Buddha, Muhammad, or Joseph Smith can forgive my sins is like saying "Chocolate ice cream can help restart my heart" It's an objective claim that is wrong. It doesn't work in the objective real world.
- The reason why Jesus had to die is because there is such a thing as morality and we broke that moral code and are guilty before God.
- You might believe in Christianity and you might not believe in Christianity, but its not the type of thing that can be true for you but not true for you. Why?
- Because Christianity and Jesus specifically claimed to be the objective truth about reality and that everything rests upon what we do with his identity.

### REFUTING STATEMENTS

- "There is no truth"- Self refuting statement
- Note: A self-refuting statement is a statement when said, contradicts itself.
  - Examples: No ones home, I can't say an English sentence, Sentences longer than 3 words don't exist, It's silent!
  - People make this mistake all the time.
- "You shouldn't judge", "You should be more tolerant"
- "Truth changes"- People used to say it was true that the earth was flat, but now we say that it's true that its round. But truth itself didn't change. Perspective changed. People beliefs about truth can change. But not truth itself. Objective truth remains the same.

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

- "Sincerity is more important than truth"- People can be sincerely wrong. Sincerity doesn't make something true.
- "Isn't it arrogant to think that you are right?"- They aren't dealing with the issue, they shift from the issue to attack the person.
  - When we love the way Jesus loved, it's harder for people to call us arrogant.
- We as Christians must remember that we are to stand up for love and truth.
- According to a statistic, 70% of Americans believe all religions are true and 48% of conservative protestant teenagers believe that there's more than one way to get to God.
- Are all religions true? Impossible. It's possible for all of them to be false, but it's impossible for them to all be true.
- Question: How do you know which religion is true? That's what this class is for. But we can know that Christianity is completely true for Jesus says "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me"