



My Truth Your Truth Whose Truth?

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And Jesus said unto His disciples, “go into all the world teaching all men to live the way they want, and urging each to find his or her own path to God. Let not any one of you make someone feel inferior or victimized because of their beliefs. Above all be tolerant. Verily, verily, I say unto you that what you believe and how you live do not matter, so long as you are sincere.”

And Jesus addressed them again, saying, “I am one of the ways, one of the truths, and just one possible life. If you are basically a good person you’re fine in my book.

I promise you won’t find that passage of Scripture in any Book in the Bible. But, there are plenty of people today who live as if that is exactly how the bible does read.

I. Right and wrong how do we choose?

If you think that right and wrong are mostly a matter of taste and believing in unchanging values does not exist, and there is nothing called absolute truth:

1. Why not just take a vote to decide what's true? Majority rules, right "Twenty million people can't be wrong"?

Of *course* twenty million people can be wrong. It happens all the time. how about those 17 million people in Germany who voted for Hitler? There were so many of them-and they were dead wrong. They brought disaster to Germany, to the Jews, and to the world.

2. Can't we just use our brains-reason and science-to come up with the truth?

If we could think and experiment our way to all truth, the smartest people on earth would have all the answers. But best thinkers are just as confused as its worst thinkers. Does that mean you shouldn't use your mind? Of course not, reason is one of the best tools we have to understand ultimate truth. The problem comes when people assume they can figure out everything. If you can't measure it scientifically, they say, it doesn't exist. There are scientists who think all that can be known is what science can tell us, but we need to ask the question: Can science lead us to God? I would argue that science can lead us to make a reasonable inference to the existence of God as the best explanation for many things that science cannot otherwise explain-including the origin of the universe. Science is great at answering the what and how questions. But it can't answer the really big questions of **who and why**.

II. Who decides what’s true?

1. It is narrow-minded to believe in "one" truth?

What happens if you dial your home phone, using all the right numbers-but in a different order? You get a "wrong" number. Isn't it rude of the phone company to insist that you have to dial those numbers in that exact order? That's awfully narrow-minded, don't you think? Who's to say that particular collection of numbers should be the only one that reaches your house?

The phone company says that. Since they invented the system, they have the right to tell you how to get through.

If God put us here, and if He's shown us how to get through to Him, we'd better pay attention to His system. It's not that *we're* right and everyone else is wrong. *God is right, and we're just listening to Him.*

III. Which religion has the answer?

1. Isn't any religion fine if it works for you?

That depends on your definition of religion. If religion is merely a tool for acquiring peace of mind, then hey. . . whatever gets you through the week. If religion is just a way to feel good about yourself, or a code of ethics to follow, or a way to express worshipful feelings-then it's like flavors of coffee. There's no right or wrong about it.

But if you expect religion to be a way to meet God, then you need to consider how *God* wants to meet *you*. You can't just make up any route you want. You have to pay attention to the map God is showing you. This "one way" stuff wasn't our idea. Jesus Himself said He was the only way. **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). And He backed up His claim by rising from the dead. Christians aren't trying to shut people out, but welcome them in. The gift of eternal life is not just for a particular race or nation or clique, but for anyone who accepts it.**

2. Why believe the Bible?

There are three reasons first:

There's historical evidence that the miracles in the Bible really happened. Archeological evidence keeps confirming details of biblical stories. For example, experts used to scoff at the idea that Moses wrote the "books of Moses" -the first five books of the Bible-because supposedly no one knew how to write back then. But examples of early writing have been found in Egypt and elsewhere, and if Moses was educated in Pharaoh's court, he surely would have had that skill. The Bible is serious history. We know more about Jesus than about Julius Caesar.

The second reason is that:

The Bible is fulfilled prophecy. Over and over again, the Bible predicts the future, hundreds of years before events happened. That's pretty unusual.

Example: The Book of Daniel describes a series of nations that would overrun Israel-and the Persians, Greeks, Syrians, and Romans fit those descriptions perfectly. Daniel even established a time frame for the appearance of the Messiah, one that fits the birth of Christ.

The third reason:

The Bible for thousands of years has transformed cultures and peoples lives more than any other single book in the history of the world. I would challenge any person to come up with any book that is even close to the Bible in its impact.

3. Why believe that Jesus is the "one" way to truth?

Jesus isn't just the "third religious leader next to Buddha, Moses, and Mohammed. He's in a class by Himself. **In John 14:6, Jesus said: "I am the way the truth and the light no one reaches the father except through me" He displayed awesome power.** He stopped storms. He healed people-lots of people. He even brought some back from the dead. His message applied to everybody, too. The truth He brought wasn't just meant for His own country or ethnic group or a little set of religious experts. He also taught about love-and showed love to everyone around Him. He taught about the kingdom of God-and stayed true to it even when the kingdom of this world crucified Him. He taught about the power of God-and, according to the Bible, that power raised Him from the dead. If the Bible is correct, Jesus didn't just teach the truth. He was-and is-the truth.

4. Why should I care whether there's such a thing as absolute truth?

We all seem to need a purpose. Without a sense of direction, we get depressed. We may try to come up with our own reasons for living-romance, basketball, a CD collection, volunteering in a soup kitchen. But these are really substitutes for some ultimate purpose.

If we want to understand our purpose in life, we need to ask: Where are we coming from? Where are we going? If a higher power created us? This provides a different answer to the "Where did we come from?" question. It means this Creator, God, designed us. And just as a motorcycle or a DVD player or a fork is designed for a purpose, so we have a purpose: to serve the Creator. If a loving God created us, then serving Him isn't a big burden, either. If He invented love and wants a loving relationship with us, then growing closer to Him is the answer to the "Where are we going?"

IV. How can I share truth without making people mad?

Very carefully, consider the following pointers:

Relationship first:

It's possible to lose a friend by winning an argument. It's not your job alone to convince people of God's truth; His Holy Spirit can do that. This doesn't mean that you should approve of or participate in stuff that God considers sinful, but you don't need to be scolding people all the time. Love people even when you disagree with them. Take time to listen to them, help them, pray for them. If they ask your opinion, give intelligently. Remember, it's easier to love someone toward God's truth than to *argue* them there.

Humility always:

Be willing to admit that you're not perfect, and that you have questions and doubts about truth. God's strength can shine through your weakness. Live a life worth wanting. Sometimes Christians seem like they're not having fun because . . . they aren't! This doesn't mean you should pretend that being a Christian is more fun than it is. It means asking God to help you develop the qualities He already wants to grow in you-like love, joy, and peace. It might help to hang out with a fun group of Christians, too.

Stay connected. Keep going back to God's Word and talking to Him in prayer. It's easy to twist the truth, even if we don't mean to. Staying connected to God and His Book helps keep us honest.

If you take a stand for God's truth, you *will* be misunderstood. Some people won't like what you have to say. It takes courage, but it takes love too.

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and call it Pluralism.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self- esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless our Pope, Bishops, and priests who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will and to openly ask these things in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit God is one Amen!"

References.

1- The Holy Bible NKJ version.

2. Rayan Dobson; Be Intolerant; 2003; Multnomah Publishers, Inc.