

Love the Truth

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Introduction

1. Truth today is seen, by many, as relative.
 - a. In other words, whatever they want to be true is.
 - b. This leaves the door wide open for Satan and sin.
2. Some consequences of truth becoming relative:
 - a. Trust is impossible.
 - i. Example:
 - ii. CNN reported that FEMA's red tape is the reason why a few thousand mobile homes are sitting at the Hope airport waiting to go to hurricane Katrina victims who desperately need them.
 - iii. What they failed to report is that the Louisiana parishes do not want the mobile homes and are refusing delivery.
 - iv. Why did CNN not simply tell the truth?
 - v. Because their report was politically motivated.
 - vi. In the political field, truth is very often relative to the observer.
 - vii. Thus, we find it difficult to trust media outlets because we rarely ever get the full story (i.e. truth) from them.
 - b. Lying becomes the standard.
 - i. To say, "Truth is relative" is basically to say, "Lying is OK."
 - ii. Since society tends to look down upon a liar, and some need to lie to further their goals, we now have that "truth is relative."
 - iii. Never be fooled.
 - iv. This is just another way to lie.
 - c. Confusion reigns.
 - i. If absolute truth does not exist, then how can we ever know if we are right about anything?
 1. We cannot!
 - ii. How could we ever call someone a liar?
 1. We could not?
 - iii. Is it not strange that the same people who tell us that there is no standard of truth will go about labeling as liars those who do not agree with them?
 1. Just listen to the liberal rhetoric coming out of Washington DC.
 2. Liberals, who do not believe in absolute truth and lie all the time, love calling President Bush a liar.
 3. Strange...and confusing.
3. In order to develop a true appreciation for the truth we need to consider three points of study.
 - a. What does it mean to love the truth?
 - b. What did a love for the truth mean to certain figures in the Bible?
 - c. What does a love for truth mean to us?

- I. What does it mean to love the truth?
 - A. The prophet Zechariah commanded God's people to love the truth (Zech. 8:19).
 - i) Why?
 - (1) Because God's law was good for them.
 - (2) God's law is synonymous with truth.
 - ii) If we are going to love the truth then we must first recognize that God's law **IS** truth.
 - (1) Far too many people will hold God's word in their hands while claiming that we cannot know truth.
 - (2) They are holding the truth!
 - (3) One must wonder if they believe God to be incapable to delivering truth to us.
 - (4) Because of God's holiness and justice, truth flows from His very nature.
 - (5) To say that the word He delivered to us does not contain absolute truth is an attack upon God's nature.
 - iii) God's word = truth (John 17:17).
 - (1) We must recognize this if we are to develop a genuine love for the truth.
 - B. The word love means to have a genuine affection for.
 - i) Thus, in learning to love the truth, we must learn to develop a genuine affection for it.
 - ii) What are the consequences of developing a genuine affection for truth?
 - (1) We will defend it.
 - (a) Those who are married understand what it means to have a genuine affection for your spouse.
 - (b) Would not that love cause one to defend his/her spouse?
 - (c) Likewise, should we not get a little hot under the collar when people attack the word of God?
 - (2) We will cherish it.
 - (a) Cherish defined – To hold dear; keep in mind; treasure.
 - (b) Do you hold the word of God as something that is dear to you?
 - (c) Do you keep it in mind?
 - (d) Do you treasure it?
 - (e) It is it just something to be picked up twice a week on the way to worship and Bible study?
 - (f) Consider the words of the psalmist:
 - (g) Psalm 119:159-162 – Consider how **I love thy precepts**: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness. **Thy word is true** from the beginning: and every one of **thy righteous judgments** endureth for ever... **my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word,** as one that findeth great spoil.
 - (h) This is but one of many examples from the Psalms of what it means to cherish truth.
 - (i) See also Psalm 119:163-167.
 - (3) We will never leave it.

- (a) A person who leaves the truth does so because he loves something else more.
 - (b) This person will eventually learn to hate the truth (Matt. 6:24).
- II. What did loving the truth mean for...?
- A. Micaiah
 - i) It meant being an enemy of the king (1 Kings 22:8).
 - ii) It meant he was tempted to abandon truth (1 Kings 22:13).
 - iii) It meant he had to speak the truth (1 Kings 22:17-25).
 - iv) It meant he had to suffer for truth's sake (1 Kings 22:25-27).
 - B. Jeremiah
 - i) It meant being seen as a traitor (Jer. 38:4).
 - ii) It meant choosing between the city he loved and the truth (Jer. 28:2,3).
 - iii) It meant being nearly friendless (Jer. 38:7).
 - iv) It meant he had to suffer (Jer. 38:6ff).
 - C. Elijah
 - i) It meant being falsely accused (1 Kings 18:17).
 - ii) It meant defending himself (vs. 18).
 - iii) It meant proving the existence, power, and sovereignty of God (vs. 19-39).
 - iv) It meant the putting away of evil (vs. 40).
 - D. Paul
 - i) It meant a fair share of suffering (2 Cor. 11:23-27).
 - ii) It meant a genuine concern for his brethren that bordered on anxiety (2 Cor. 11:28).
 - iii) It meant having a certainty of a heavenly reward (2 Timothy 4:8).
- III. What does loving the truth mean for us?
- A. It means we must develop a genuine affection for truth.
 - B. It means we must speak truth regardless of the circumstances and possibly suffer for truth's sake.
 - i) Earthly loss often follows one who speaks truth.
 - ii) Friends, family, jobs, community standing, property, life, et al.
 - C. It means proving the existence and power of God.
 - i) How many of us understand and can communicate the three most basic arguments for the existence of God?
 - (1) Every effect must have an adequate cause.
 - (2) Design implies a designer.
 - (3) Morals could only arise from a moral being.
 - ii) The world is filled with atheists and agnostics who love to boast about the supposed lack of evidence for the existence of God.
 - (1) Atheists love to point at Christians and mock their ignorance.
 - (2) Are the atheists correct?
 - D. It means that we can rest assured in the promises of God.
 - i) Titus 1:2 – In hope of eternal life, which God, **that cannot lie**, promised before the world began...
 - ii) Rev. 2:10 – ...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Conclusion

1. While it is certain that a love for the truth can bring negative consequences on earth, it is equally certain that a love for the true will bring an eternal Heavenly reward.
2. The choice then is very simple:
 - a. You can live peacefully with immorality on earth by abandoning truth and lose your soul...
 - b. Or you can pick up your sword of the Spirit, learn to love it, learn how to use it, live in conflict with immorality, and enjoy Heaven for all eternity.