



# Truth and Truthfulness

## Gaining a genuine perspective

- The eternal principles of God embedded in the physical and spiritual worlds He has made.

### A) Truth, Not Deception

#### Truth's Transforming Power

"Jesus said, "Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'" (John 8:31, 32)

- The Truth shall set you free!
- Follow the path to freedom! So how does this work?



#### Relearning the truth

"Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words" (John 8:31, 32)

#### Truth in the OT Bible

"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He" (Dt 32:4).

"True instruction was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity" (Malachi 2:6).

- "Truth" (amen) is used 92 times in OT; also means faithfulness. Hebrew word is often translated faith, trust, or believing in the Greek OT Septuagint.
- Faithfulness => truth
- Faithful projection of oneself => true perception

#### Truth in the NT Bible

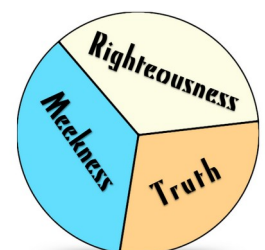
- John introduces the 'Word' (logos) to us in John 1:1-3
- Truth stems from (two words-Greek 'aleitheia'):
  - The negative prefix 'a' (no, not), and
  - 'lanthano' meaning hidden or secret.

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me"" (John 14:6).

"That is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you." (John 14:17)

#### The Necessity of Truth

"And in Thy majesty ride on victoriously, For the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; Let Thy right hand teach Thee awesome things" (Ps 45:4).



- Truth speaks of the sphere of the mind. Our goal then is to have truth fill our minds and so shape our decisions and lives. Christian discipleship is the shaping of our minds with the truth once the heart has embraced the Truth
- Meekness speaks of the sphere of the spirit like a trained horse.
- Righteousness speaks of the sphere of the will and translating truth into our daily lives.

## B) The Power of Truth

### #1 Truth's ability to change people (Eph 1:13)

"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him..." (Eph 1:13).



### #2 Power of speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15)

"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ" (Eph 4:15).

### #3 The Truth is in Jesus (Eph 4:21)

"If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus" (Eph 4:21).

### #4 Our new nature cultivated in the truth (Eph 4:24)

"And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth" (Eph 4:24).

### #5 Speak truth with one another (Eph 4:25)

"Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another" (Eph 4:25).

### #6 Truth is the foundation of our lives (Eph 6:14)

"Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Eph 6:14)

## C) Walking in Integrity

### Discern and reject falsehood

"Don't lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its [evil] practices" (Col 3:9).

- False perspectives

### Stop lying

"Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying." (Rev 22:15)

- Lying is very popular partly because:

### Importance of truth

"Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens" (Ex 18:21).

- False perspectives

### Relentlessly live by truth

"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil" (Mat 5:37).

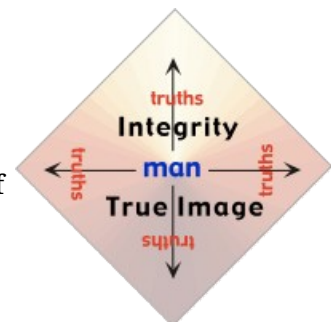
- The person projected is the same as the true inner person

### Summary

- Unrelenting commitment to the understanding and practice of being like Jesus Christ as shown through the Word of God.

### Personal reflections

- How has God's truth kept you from deceiving others?
- How has God's truth encouraged you when you have fallen?



- What kind of image do you project to others? What do you hide from others?
- What practical steps have you taken to love truth more?
- How is truth connected to justice?

**Study questions**

- How does Titus 1:1 speak about the importance of truth in living a godly life?
- What does it mean to ‘gird your loins with truth’ (Ephesians 6:14)?
- How are our personal relationships affected by truth and deception?
- How does the word ‘truth’ teach us that the word of God is infallible deserving our full trust?
- What two meanings are united in the one Hebrew word ‘amen?’ How might the two ideas blend together?