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"Truth"

1. What is Truth?

- a. The Bible teaches that the Truth *begins with a person*: Jesus
 - i. Truth doesn't start with a 'what' but a 'who'.

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

- b. Which means that the ultimate knowledge of Truth will not just be facts to know but a person to know in relationship.

Question: How can Jesus say that He is the Truth?

Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV) "For by [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through [Jesus] and for [Jesus]. And [Jesus] is before all things, and in [Jesus] all things hold together."

- i. **Answer:** Because nothing exists that He didn't first create... He created all that we can know and discover (lowercase truth)
- c. **How can we know Truth?**
 - i. **General Revelation** - the Bible teaches that everything else in reality exists as an expression of who God is: His character, His beauty, etc.

Psalms 19:1-4 (NIV) "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

- a. **One homework assignment:** Star gaze once this month
- ii. **Scripture** - A revealing of God's words (Special Revelation)

John 17:17 (ESV) "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

- d. Biblically, **Truth is Meant to be Experienced**
 - i. The truth is like an EpiPen... its power lies behind the action step

John 8:31-32 (ESV) "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

2. How is "Truth" Misused and Misunderstood in Our Culture?

- a. **First, Truth is suppressed.**

Romans 1:18-20 (NIV) "18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them" (emphasis mine).

- i. Strategy #1: Say that all truth is relative.
- ii. Strategy #2: Say that all truth is subjective.
 1. Romans 1:21-23 (NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and *exchanged*

the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles” (emphasis mine).

b. After the Truth is suppressed, an exchange must be made.

- i. Harvard Geneticist Professor Richard Lewontin:

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science *in spite* of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, *in spite* of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, *in spite* of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism.

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”

c. The result of the exchange: Truth that disagrees with materialism must be minimized or denied.

- i. Strategy #3: Present truth as foolish, criminal, or for private use only.

“A lie is a lie even if everyone believes it. The truth is the truth even if nobody believes it.” — David Stevens

3. How Can We Reclaim the Word “Truth”?

a. Stop contributing to the misunderstanding:

- i. The Christian Worldview is not just religious truth but total truth.
1. God doesn't *just* care about how you do something but about what you are doing *as well*.

b. Engage the culture

- i. How well do we know the truth so that we will know the counterfeit?
1. Specifically, how are we raising our children to know the truth?
ii. Take a posture of meekness...You cannot be an arrogant mature believer.
1. Defend the truth, but do it like Paul.

[Philippians 3:18-19 \(ESV\)](#) “For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.”

Small Group Discussion:

Ice breaker: Tell of a time when communication got lost in translation. (Examples: You meant one thing, but they heard another; your phone auto-corrected your text, etc.)

Main Passages: Romans 1:18-23, John 8:31-32

1. What is something in creation that leads you to be in awe of the Creator?
2. What does the phrase mean: Truth doesn't start with a 'what' but a 'who'?
3. How is truth like an EpiPen? (Hint: Truth is meant to be experienced; not only known.)
4. Read Romans 1:18-23. What can we learn about truth from this passage?
5. Is there a way that your life needs to change because of this discussion about truth?

Don't forget: **Homework assignment:** Try to go stargazing once during August and read Psalm 19:1-4.

To watch the Sermon Team on The Overtime Podcast, go to: <https://bit.ly/RLOvertime>

