

The Priority of THE TRUTH

The truth is a top priority for life.

Necessitating Factors:

1. We live in a world desperate for the _____ of truth.

*“80% of American adults ...expresses **concern about the nation’s moral condition....**”* The Barna Group, David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons in Good Faith. **But** *“66% of American adults either believe **moral truth is relative to circumstances** or have not given it much thought.”*

Without truth there is no

- _____ **OR...** Ps. 89:14, 11:7-8;
Zech. 8:15-17; Is. 59:14-15
 - _____ Prov. 3:3-6, 12:17-20
 - _____ Eph. 4:14-16; Prov. 21:28, 29:14
 - _____ “ “
 - _____ 2 John 1-3
 - _____ John 8:31-33; 2 Tim. 2:25-26; Rom. 1
- If we **suppress the truth** we will **believe THE _____** and become _____ **enslaved** to the _____ of our own _____ to ultimately suffer God’s wrath. Rom. 1:18-25

2. Reaping the _____ of truth requires accepting the _____ of truth.

- “ _____ ?”* **Avoiding Pilate’s dilemma: John 18:37-38**
- _____ **is the _____ of truth.** John 14:6; Eph. 4:21; Heb. 4:12 *Know Jesus, know Truth. No Jesus, no truth.*
 - **God’s _____ is sanctifying truth.** 2 Sam. 7:28; John 17:17-18; Ps. 119
 - **God’s _____ is the revealer, guide and teacher of truth.** John 14:16f., 16:13 *... that we may know the things freely given to us by God...* 1 Cor. 2:12f.
 - **God’s _____ strive for _____ in the truth (milk, meat, good/evil)** *Speaking the truth in love, **we all grow up..!*** Eph. 4:14-15 *...because of practice have their senses trained to discern...* Heb. 5:14

Challenge:

- Beware of _____ the truth for the _____ of this age.
- Be confident in _____ truth – it’s what people really want and need.
- Be intentional in keeping truth in the context of _____.

Discussion Guide: The Priority of THE TRUTH

Opener: Share a time in your life when someone shared “uncomfortable truth” with you. e.g. Instruction/correction from a parent/teacher.

- What made “facing the truth” uncomfortable or painful?
- Was the sharing of truth, in this instance, helpful or harmful?
- Is it possible to do harm by sharing truth? i.e. Can truth be shared in a manner or time when it does not help someone but actually hurts them?

1. Agree, disagree, discuss:

It is impossible to worship God apart from the truth.

All the followers of Jesus fully agree on all matters of truth.

Truth is an objective reality, not an optional preference.

God has granted us everything pertaining to life through the true knowledge of Jesus.

*People of truth should correct all errors as soon as we see or hear them.
(ours? Others?)*

2. Our study revealed that without truth, we forfeit life’s greatest values such as justice, trust and freedom.

- What else would you add to the list of casualties when we reject truth?
- Which of these casualties do you think are impacting our culture and nation now?
- How is Pilate’s dilemma impacting our culture? Our families and children? Our churches?
- Of the *sources of truth* we studied, which are most difficult to receive for our unbelieving friends? For us as followers of Jesus?

3. Discuss some practical tips and steps for implementing our challenge points.

Prayer Target: *Speaking the **truth in love** (so that we will all) grow up into the fullness of Christ!*

