

## INTRODUCTION:

Do you ever after watching the news wonder, “What is even true anymore?” I believe many people are asking that question and are in a state of confusion. Many of us are confused because we have never studied the state of ideas being tossed about in our society.

So this morning I want us to discuss the most important subject we could discuss, and this subject is the subject of truth. Many may think after the recent talk on love that love would be the highest subject to discuss. No doubt love is the highest ethic, but love has no place without truth. Truth is mankind’s highest treasure. To illustrate this I want to begin with a story:

**Ravi Zacharias, a Christian apologist who speaks around the world, was asked which is more important love or truth, and he responded truth. The questioner quickly disagreed to state that love is the most important to which Ravi responded, “Is that true?”**

This little conversation illustrates that love and truth go together but without truth, there can be no understanding of love or anything else in the world.

We see in our world today, and particularly in our society:

- *an erosion of values,*
- *confusion of identity,*
- *the extinction of logic and reasoning,*
- *the collapse of moral frameworks*
- *Delusional ideologies*
- *Political demagoguery* (when a politician or political groups appeal to popular desires and prejudices rather than using rational argument) I’ve seen this in both Republicans & Democrats

These issues exist because we as a people, society, country and world have lost our appetite for truth. Feelings have become the barometer in which we measure values, and critical thinking has become an enemy to many and a past time for a few. Today, we are quick to believe lies but slow to investigate truth, and gossip is a multi-million dollar business from magazines to news reports. Why is this the case? Because we have left no room for God in our society, our homes, and ultimately our hearts.

## **Charles Spurgeon**

A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

Today we must take a look at the question of “What is truth?” This is the question of all questions because if one is not interested in truth then there are no answers for any of the other questions we may ask.

## **TEXT** *John 18:28-38*

28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover.

29 Then Pilate came out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

30 They answered him, “If this man weren’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have handed Him over to you.”

31 So Pilate told them, “Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law.”

“It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death,” the Jews declared. 32 They said this so that Jesus’ words might be fulfilled signifying what kind of death He was going to die.

33 Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

34 Jesus answered, “Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about Me?”

35 “I’m not a Jew, am I?” Pilate replied. “Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?”

36 “My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. As it is, My kingdom does not have its origin here.”

37 “You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

“You say that I’m a king,” Jesus replied. “I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.”

38 **“What is truth?”** said Pilate.

## ***John 17:17***

Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.

### **I. Truth cannot exist without a Logical Exclusivity**

- A. In our country today people hate the word exclusive. Inclusive is the popular term along with terms like tolerance, and the idea of truth being exclusive is repulsive to so many.
- B. Truth by definition is exclusive to be able to determine the difference between that which is true, an actual account of reality, versus that which is false. Falsehood being that claim that does not correlate with reality.

#### **Ravi Zacharias**

"It is the very nature of truth that presents us with this reality. Everything cannot be true. If everything is true, then nothing is false. And if nothing is false then it would also be true to say everything is false. We cannot have it both ways. One should not be surprised at the claims of exclusivity. The reality is that even those who deny truth's exclusivity, in effect, exclude those who do not deny it. The truth quickly emerges."

- C. Without their being any sense of exclusivity, then there would be no boundaries, and where there are no boundaries there would be an identity crisis.
- D. All religions have an exclusive clause within them.
- E. Many say Christians are arrogant to say that Jesus is the Only Way to which I say that if the claims of Jesus are in fact true, then it is only logical to claim that He is the only way to God.
- F. Prepare yourself for persecution. When exclusive truth is claim in Christ, it shakes the bowels of Hell.

#### ***John 14:6***

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

## **Ravi Zacharias**

"Christ is either the immeasurable God or one dreadfully lost. Apply the tests of truth to the person and the message of Jesus Christ. You see not only his exclusivity, but also his uniqueness."

## **Illustration of God & the Mountain**

**Note:** We often want God to bend His knee to us, but Scripture says we will bend our knee to Him.

### ***Philippians 2:9-11***

For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow — of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth — and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **3 Tests for Truth:**

- **Logical consistency** is that test that asks if something is rational. It seeks to show that the worldview in question makes sense within itself.
- **Empirical adequacy** is the test that asks if we can verify these facts empirically. This would be most specifically applied to the Christian claims of Jesus. You see, if a worldview is not able to justify or verify what it is claiming...
- **Experiential relevance** is the test that asks how this actually has relevance to my life. You see, if a worldview was maintained without sufficient relevance to my life, what would the point be? In order for a worldview to have relevance it would need to be one that challenged you, changed you, and sustained you in good and bad times.

### ***Psalms 25:5-7***

Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; I wait for You all day long. Remember, LORD, Your compassion and Your faithful love, for they have existed from antiquity. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my acts of rebellion; in keeping with Your faithful love, remember me because of Your goodness, LORD.

## **Mark Twain**

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."