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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **What does truth imply?**

Listen to the following passage of scripture:

## **John 18:36-38**

<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

<sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

<sup>38</sup> Pilate said to Him, "**What is truth?**" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

This passage illustrates the attitude of many people today.

We are living in a time when truth doesn't matter to people any more. In fact, a recent survey indicates that 70% of Americans 18-25 years old do not believe in absolute truth ([Adrift: Postmodernism in the Church](#), Phil Sanders, p. 57). In other words, 100 years ago a preacher might come to a town to start a new church and people would ask questions. There would be discussions and sometimes even debates. People were opening up their Bibles to see if what the preacher said was the truth. People 100 years ago believed that the Bible contained the written words of God and because they believed this, they looked to the scriptures as a standard of right and wrong. If the preacher was advocating something different than what the Bible said, it bothered people. It bothered them enough that they would not listen to him.

But 72% of young Americans today do not even believe there is absolute truth. To most Americans truth is completely relative. In the views of many, the Bible contains just one way of viewing life, but certainly not the only way of viewing life.

## **WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Listen to me carefully: Truth, by its very nature, is an exclusive claim. What I mean by that is simply this: **If what is being stated is true, something else cannot also be true**. Let me give you some examples.

### **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

This is an exclusive claim. It is saying the only way to be saved is thru Jesus and His system of salvation. If this is the truth, then it means there is no other way of being saved. It means all Islamic people are lost as long as they remain in their Islamic faith. It means all Jewish people are forever lost as long as they remain in their Jewish faith. The truth, Jesus said, is that **no one** can come to the Father except thru Him. There is no other way of being saved. In fact, listen to the apostle Peter:

### **Acts 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The apostles spent their time trying to convert Jews from their religion to Christianity. They believed in absolute truth! They believed their fellow countrymen were lost and destined to eternal torture in hell if they didn't change their religious views. According to the NT scriptures, there is only one way to be saved.

Let me give you another example:

### **Ephesians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> **There is one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Take the time after you hang up to read that passage – there is "one body." According to the apostles, the truth is there is only one body. What is the "body" this passage is speaking of?

### **Ephesians 1:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to **the church,**

<sup>23</sup> **which is His body,** the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

If these passages are telling the truth, they are saying the church is the body and there is only one body. That means there is only one church. That's an exclusive claim. If there is only one church, then that means all other churches are wrong. Listen further – and please notice that all of these passages are coming from the Book of Ephesians – I'm not just skipping around from book to book and putting unrelated passages together to come up with this. Listen:

### **Ephesians 5:23**

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of **the church;** and He is the Savior of **the body.**

This one passage, all by itself, is saying the church is the body. Listen to it again (re-read). Chapter 4:4 said there was only one body (which means there is only one church). What is Christ? He's the head of the church. What is He? He's the Savior of the body. Say that again? He's the Savior of the body. When He comes again, who is He going to save? The body. What's the body? The church. How many churches are there? One. What's He going to save? His one church.

My friend, the idea that it doesn't matter what church you belong to is nonsense! If the Bible is true, it makes all the difference in the world. You cannot believe the Bible and at the same time believe that all churches are okay. You cannot logically believe in the Bible and believe that there is more than one way to go to heaven. You cannot believe the Bible and at the very same time believe all good people are going to be saved no matter what church they go to.

The scriptures are claiming to be the word of God. The NT scriptures claim to be truth. If they are true, then something else cannot also be true at the same time.

Let me tell you one more thing before I close: **Truth is true even if no one believes it.** In other words, if you don't believe that one church alone could be right, this doesn't change the truth. If everyone in Atlanta agrees together that more than one church is acceptable, that does not change the truth. **Truth, by its very nature is absolute and exclusive.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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