

The Truth, The Whole Truth, And Nothing But The Truth...

No one likes to be lied to. When we are lied to, and we find out that we have been lied to, we feel as though our trust has been betrayed. As parents we tell our children, that a certain punishment will not be quite so bad if they just tell the truth, not that there will not be consequences, but that the punishment will not be quite so harsh. We all know that one of the 10 Commandments, in Exodus chapter 20, teaches us about "false witnesses," but do we really understand fully what truth is, how do we speak the truth, and what to expect when we speak the truth.

I. What Is Truth?

A) The definition and meaning of truth can vary greatly, depending on who you ask, and what material you're using to do your research.

The word truth appears in the KJV 239 times, the word true appears 89 times, that's a total of 328 occurrences, so it is obvious that it is a very important subject.

1) There are several definitions for truth listed in the Webster's Dictionary.

a) (Genesis 37:31) a judgment, proposition, or idea that is true or accepted as true.

If we are told that something is true, or led to believe that something is true by someone that we honor, respect, and trust, we assume that

it is truth. I believe that there has been many souls lost eternally due to believing something to be true, when it is in fact not.

b) Denominational doctrines are some of the many so-called truths that have caused many souls to be lost

Faith alone, Grace alone, Scripture alone.

Accept, Believe, Confess.

c) Even within the Lord's church there has been some misunderstandings of what Truth really is

Matthew 26:26-28 is a passage where the Lord's Supper is instituted by Jesus Himself. Some within the church will tell you that we must

partake of the cup from one singular cup because of the wording in verse 27. We, however, know that it is not truth concerning quantity of

cups involved in the Lord's Supper. This has caused a huge division within the church. The division over the amount of cups used in the serving of the Lord's Supper can be solved if one would look at the fact that what Jesus blessed in Matthew 26:27 was not the cup, but what was in the cup. "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matt 26:39 KJV) Jesus was clearly asking if there was any other way to redeem mankind, than the shedding of His blood. He was not asking Him to take a literal cup away from him

2) Fidelity, or faithfulness to an original or standard is another definition of truth.

We in the Lord's church try very hard to speak where the Bible speaks, and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

We call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways.

Why do we sing songs? Why do we partake of the Lord's Supper each and every 1st day of the week? (Colossians 3:16-17)

Psalms 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life.

II. How Do We Speak The Truth?

A) We should proclaim the Gospel message boldly (1 Thessalonians 2:1-4) (Acts 16:22-24) (Galatians 2:11)

Bold : fearless before danger : b : showing or requiring a fearless daring spirit

B) We are to speak the truth continually (Acts 6:4)

C) Acts 2 & Acts 17 Peter and Paul had 2 different audiences, and needed to address them as such.

D) Ephesians 4:15 "but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head, Christ..." One can attract way more flies with honey, than with vinegar. We need to speak it in a way so as to not cause any unnecessary contention or strife.

So we must speak the truth with boldness, we must never give up on speaking the truth, we must consider who we are speaking to, and at what point in their lives they are at, and we must speak the truth in a way that shows that we love the ones we are speaking to.

III. What Do We Expect When We Speak The Truth?

Rest assured, you will get a response when you speak the truth. Some will respond favorably, some will respond negatively. Even what would appear to be a lack of response is actually a response in itself. The truth will cause those who have hardened their hearts to be angered. If one reads Foxe's Book of Martyrs we read of many people who were killed for the cause of Christ. You will be hated and mocked/laughed at for speaking the truth, but then there are those who have soft hearts and will have a favorable response to the truth.

A) You will be hated for speaking the truth.

1) And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. (Matt 10:22 KJV)

2) And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. (Gen 37:5 KJV)

3) And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. (Gen 37:8 KJV)

4) Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. (Matt 24:9)

B) You will be laughed at, or mocked for speaking the truth.

1) And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will

hear thee again of this matter. (Acts 17:32 KJV)

2) But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. (2 Chron 36:16-17 KJV)

3) I am as one mocked of his neighbour, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright man is laughed to scorn. (Job 12:4 KJV)

C) Some will respond favorably to the truth. "If my heart is right I will hear..."

1) Luke 3:7-14 John baptized a multitude after preaching the truth

2) John 4:21-42 when Jesus taught the truth to the Samaritans they believed.

3) Acts 9:1-18 when Saul of Tarsus (aka the Apostle Paul) was confronted with the truth he believed and asked "what wilt thou have me to do?"

4) Acts 8:5-13 Philip preached the truth to the Samaritans who had believed in the sorcerer Simon and converted them and Simon.

The truth is that Jesus Christ died for you and me. He was buried in a tomb, overcame death by arising from the dead never to die again, and after being seen and heard by multitudes of people, He ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father, where He makes intercession for all those who have been baptized into Christ. When we speak the truth it will divide light from darkness, the truth will cause people to stick their fingers in their ears and act like children. People will laugh at us for believing the truth. They say that there is no way for the resurrection to happen scientifically, well that is what makes it miraculous. The truth is demanding, it demands that we change our lifestyle. The Pharisees and chief priests were comfortable in their lifestyle of compromise with the Roman government, and when they were confronted with the truth they were so angered that they put Jesus to death. Just as the truth demanded them to change, so the truth demands us to change. That change can also be called repentance, once we repent, we put

off the old way of life, and start living for Christ. If we are living for Christ, then we do the things that Christ would approve of. Would Christ approve if we only hear the truth? Would Christ approve if we only believe the truth? Would Christ approve if we only confess the truth? The answer to all of these is absolutely not. In order to be approved by Christ we must obey the truth. To obey the truth means we must do something. Romans 6:3-6 "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.