

Truth In A Shifting Culture

Intro:

Everyone in Canada will agree that Canada is changing.

Example: - Over 50 percent of people who live in Toronto are not born in Canada

- Ethically changing: changing what is permissible: legalizing cannabis, and MAID/Assisted suicide.

1. What Truth Has Been Left Behind?

a. Metaphysical Truth

Metaphysical Truths are the ones that survive any kind of questioning. They are absolutely and fundamentally true. I could not avoid believing it to be true; at least implicitly, or you will begin to question whether you believe that you exist at all.

Metaphysics is concerned with the fundamental nature of reality; structure and the component of reality. What actually exists in the universe? Is matter all that it is? What is matter? What are universal principles of the universe?... etc.

Metaphysics is the branch of Philosophy that deals with concepts of reality such as being and identity, mind and matter, substance and existence, cause and effect, time and space - aspects of reality.

b. Scientific Truth

Scientific truth” is a double-edged sword. On the one hand it carries a kind of epistemic (how we know) credibility, a quality assurance that a truth has been arrived at in an understandable and verifiable way. The quality of scientific truth is therefore dependent on the quality of the evidence, the quality of the research protocol, the quality and integrity of those carrying out the research and the vigilance and diligence of editors and peer reviewers.

c. Constructed Truth

My truth which is subjective and may not follow any logical reasoning, as they view absolute truth as meaningless. It is a custom fitted truth. This perspective suggests that knowledge is shaped by human experiences, beliefs, and interactions. Constructed truth would stop existing of that person stopped existing, as it is constructed by an individual.

2. What We Believe

- We believe Truth is unchanging. It is the same yesterday, today and forever. Truth is revealed by God, which is knowable and needed for each person in the world. This truth is found in God’s Word, the Bible.

3. How to bring God's Word to a culture who sees truth as meaningless?

- The answers are found in the letter's that Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus.

Read Titus 1:5-9

The Challenge: Challenges them to bring God's Word to their culture

a) **Hold Firmly to the Truth** (1:9)

What does holding firm look like? Devotion, Deep Conviction, and with great Precision

i) **Devotion:**

- God's Word has a hold on you, and your heart is completely dedicated to the Word of God. (Example: No one can serve two masters- Matthew 6:19-24)
- We are devoted because we love God's Word and the one who gave it to us.

Question: Am I still devoted to God's Truth? Am I choosing to have God's Word to feed my soul? Do I actually love God's Word, or am I focused on the obligation to learn it?

ii) **Deep Conviction:** God's Word is Trustworthy

- Be with people who truly trust the Word. All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). Raise other leaders with that conviction. Living a life with such a strong confidence in God's Word.

Reality: Culture attacks God's Word's trustworthiness or its validity

"¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it" (2 Timothy 3:14)

You have learned it and have become convinced of it; it is absolutely trustworthy.

God's Word is Truth: Jesus said...

¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by ^[d]the truth; **your word is truth.** (John 17:14-16)

iii) **Great Precision:**

- "As taught"- According to the teaching; hold it precisely as taught.
- God's Word is making us. We are not making it. However, we do communicate it in such a way that it is understandable to those listening.

“I am not afraid to say that a new idea never originated in this Seminary.”
Instead, Hodge saw seminary a place where the professors faithfully explained
and made clear old ideas to a new generation.

Dr. Charles Hodge at Princeton Theological Seminary, on April 24, 1872

4. Why is this important? (Titus 1:9)

1. We can promote it

- We can give instruction with sound doctrine to others.
- “To give instruction”- to exhort, challenge, to comfort, and encourage. Our instruction should include each aspect from that list.

However, some people are good exhorters, and others are good encourages. But, we need to do both.

When we instruct, it needs to do both, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

2. Rebuke Those Who Contradict It

- We are to protect it. Rebuke someone strongly, clearly, and with authority.
- Paul tells Titus that there are many insubordinates (Titus 1:10)

How do we rebuke someone in a godly way?

Vs 7- with no arrogance, not quick tempered and without the display of abuse

Vs. 8- To be hospitable, self controlled, Upright in how you live, and disciplined.

Don't go alone: Do it with others. “Raise Up Elders”

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,[a] which he bought with his own blood.”
(Acts 20:28)

Paul understood how to keep a healthy church as a healthy church. Protecting the truth displays how much you value it.

Question....

How valuable is the truth?

How precious is the church that Jesus shed His blood for?

We showcase how valuable the truth is, and this will impact out culture. Paul says that is our role.
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