

Truth will separate you



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Here is a reality: **If you believe the Truth, people will mock you. If you speak the Truth, people will deride you. If you stand up for Truth, people will kill you.**

We see this right throughout Scripture, and indeed in life itself, but primarily we see it in the life of Jesus. The thing about “Truth” is that it will always cause a separation, disconnecting you from family, friends and even society. Being a Truth-bearer will most likely isolate you, cause you consternation, and cost you an awful lot. It can be a lonely walk, being a Truth-bearer. As you walk through life standing up as a witness to Truth, trouble will come your way. Most of us know this already in various ways.

Truth is a fundamental aspect of being a follower of Jesus, so if we don’t believe in it wholly, or only in certain parts of it, problems will arise. Foundations get shaken, stability is threatened, lives become confused, morality breaks down, and futures are threatened.

Now for us as followers of Jesus, our foundation is Him, simply because He is “**the Way, the TRUTH, and the Life**” (John 14:6). In the Greek this is made stronger by emphasizing the phrase this way:

Jesus said, “I am the Way, and I am the Truth, and I am the Life”. It’s like He repeats it in a three-fold manner, emphasizing each aspect. “I am....and I am....and I am”.

You will notice that it is Truth that holds the other two aspects in harmony, because Truth is found in the middle of the phrase. The way, **the Truth**, the Life. It is central, binding the Way and the Life, together. It is the cement of the other two.

This is very important, especially in relation to the End Times, because one of the most critical End Time characteristics will be the need for Wisdom. Without this many will flounder in the dark days that are ahead. It’s taken for granted that faith and trust in our God are absolutely vital, because they serve as a solid foundation to stand on, but we’ll also need Wisdom in order to know what to do and how to act in certain End Time scenarios.

The other related characteristic will be the need to hold onto the revealed Truth of Scripture. It can be so easy when things are going well, or fairly well, to stand on the Truths of Scripture (like “God is my help in time of need” – e.g. Heb 4:16) but it’s quite another to proclaim this to yourself and believe it deep down as an eternal truth, when all around you is trying to get you to disbelieve it.

Satan works hard at this to shake us. In fact he’s so much against Truth that Jesus calls him “**the father of LIES**” (John 8:44). Satan is THE Liar, the phrase is a word for someone who is an agent of a conscious falsehood. Satan knew he was delivering a falsehood, and he still does.

This means he is the source of all lies, particularly THE lie. The very first lie recorded in Scripture is the “half-truth/lie” in Genesis when the serpent said to Eve “**You surely will not die**” and “**You will be like God knowing good and evil**”. (Gen 3:4-5).

That was THE lie, and from that point onwards the attack against Truth was set into action, and we’ve been challenged, attacked and hounded by Satan ever since. The upside, the antidote if you like, to this is of course found in Jesus: “**the truth is in Jesus**” (Eph 4:21).

As a side note, see what Revelation says:

“As for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.” (Rev 21:7-8).

Most people think that if you’ve ever told a lie you’ll end up in the lake of fire. Being a liar just doesn’t seem to fit in with the other big immoral acts of being a murderer, idolater, etc does it? But in this verse being a “liar” isn’t simply about fibbing, it’s about spreading THE lie referred to in Genesis chapter 3.

Also Rev 22:15 – “**Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying**”.

There are protagonists for THE Truth, compared with propagandists for THE Lie. It started like this, and it will end like this. THE Truth compared to THE Lie; Jesus or Satan; being a Truth-bearer or being a Liar.

So if you persist in spreading THE lie of Satan (whether you’re aware of it or not) you will most certainly be judged accordingly! New Agers, satanists, cultists and false religionists, take note. While all these have and still do lie about such truths as Jesus being Divine, His sacrificial death, the Judgement to come, etc, this lying will especially be notable in the doctrinal lies of the Antichrist.

Today one of the most ridiculous lies about the truth is the trendy New Age saying that “the only truth there is, is that there is no truth”. What a foolish nonsense! This is nothing more than an illogical cultural relativism gone wild that wants to deny any type of absolute truth, by saying “there is no absolute truth”, yet that very saying is presented as an absolute!

Practicalities. Truth is a foundation, so we are to live a life in habitual consistency with THE Truth, as much as we can. Certainly the enemy will try to sway us, shift us off centre, and challenge our stand for Truth, but we’re called to be Truth-bearers and disseminators of His Truth.

Truth is a revelation from God Himself. You can search for it, but you must first desire truth (even if you’re not quite sure you are desiring it!).

“Yahweh is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds. Yahweh is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.” (Psalm 145:17-18)

Searching for spiritual truth is quite different from being a recipient of truth. In one sense Truth cannot be searched for by us and found, rather it is given. It is given to us by a loving God, a Father who sees our heart's intent for truth and graciously grants it to us as a gift.

This is exactly how I came to faith in Christ, as a lost teenager looking for an explanation to life, where was I heading, what's it all about. All the fairly normal teenage questions! I had no knowledge of God, no Christian environment, and no religious basis to my life whatsoever.

Yet out of nowhere the Father graciously GAVE me a very specific dream and told me to repent. He told me to change my way of thinking and attend to my conduct of life (the actual meaning of "repent").

I obeyed, I did what He told me to do – and wonderfully, even without a single person witnessing to me or explaining the Gospel, I was saved and transformed from darkness into light, from death to life, from a lie into the truth. That was 54 years ago and I'm still going strong in all He gave me. Hallelujah!

I share this because I want you to know that Truth is a given thing. You can search for it, seek it out and try to hunt it down, but the timing of it's revealing to you is only by the Father's hand. He will choose the moment of revelation. Our part in this is to keep on searching, keep on waiting, and to be diligent in our desire.

Now in this I'm really referring to those who don't yet know Christ. This is how many of us came to faith. We were looking for something but probably didn't know it would lead to Him. We may have gone into New Age things, into false religion, into drugs or whatever in our search. But inside there was this consistent desire to keep on searching – until He found us!

Some people might ask why it took so long for them to arrive at the Truth, to find Jesus who is Truth. Well, sorry I have no explanation for that mystery of God's timing. But what I do know is that He knows! He knows and coordinates the most perfect timing.

Our part in this is that upon receiving the gift of Truth (about Jesus in particular) we need to respond to it, and to honour it. Most believers in Christ obviously respond to Him quickly, but it saddens me that not many honour and treasure it enough. It's so very important to understand that when Truth comes to us by a given revelation, we should honour it by acknowledging that we haven't made it happen – it was given!

Yes, we may treasure Jesus so very much because he's saved us, anointed us and written our names in the Book of Life. But as time goes on it can be easy to let slip honouring "how" it all came to us – as a beautiful revelation given at the most appropriate time in our life, by an all-knowing Father who knew our heart's desire for that precise moment.

So as you grow in the Lord, whenever you receive a fresh revelation of Truth from Him, please don't forget to thank Him, and to honour what you've received. It may be a new and fresh insight as you read Scripture, or a word from Him to encourage you, or a brother or sister speaking into your life. In whatever form it comes, honour it and by doing so you will lift up His Name!

Interestingly I've found that when you honour the receiving of some new insight, Truth somehow (in the mystery of God) gets added to your mind and thinking. It's a strange thing this revelation from God – He chooses the moment to send it, you receive it and the Holy Spirit somehow wonderfully "implants" it into your innermost being. Once in you it takes up residence so to speak, and does its inner work re-adjusting you to the Word.

In the Godhead there is no absence of truth. He is supremely "true". There is no variation of it within Him. He is perfectly and wholly "truth", just as He is perfectly and wholly "love" (1 John 4:8).

So here are some things to ponder.

When Truth arrives, honour it.

THE Truth is hidden in plain sight, even though it might not be so obvious at the time.

On the other hand THE Lie is usually quite obvious and indeed popular, more so than Truth.

It will be wisdom that enables you to discern the difference between the two contenders.

THE Truth effects the spirit-man; THE Lie effects and clouds the mind. So in that sense you cannot trust your mind to discern the difference. Use your sanctified mind and common-sense by all means but let your holy/sanctified spirit (inwardly transformed man) make the final choice.

And finally, in a surprising way, Truth will make you content and happy. Just as Jesus said: **“You will know the truth and the truth will make you free”** (John 8:32).

There have been times when I was seeking Scripture, attempting to understand a particularly hard truth, and when I finally was given a revelatory insight into the meaning of the subject (even though it challenged my theology at the time), I came away quite happy to comply to what the Word said.

There was a settled peace within me. I wanted an answer, the revelation came to me, I bent to its truth, and walked away content inside of me – even “happy” that I had been re-adjusted in my thinking to the Word. I felt “safe” because the truth of the Word had made a mark deep within.

Anyway that’s what Truth has done to and for me. It may very well be quite different for you, but that’s the mystery and the beauty of how the Father treats each us. But the one consistent thing is – the Truth will definitely separate you!

So there it is: the wonder, the beauty and the mystery of God’s Truth. How extraordinary that Jesus prayed that we as His followers could be secure in that very Truth.

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As You sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth”. (John 17:17-19)

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