

Gird Your Life With Truth




"Say ... what's a mountain goat doing way up here in a cloud bank?"

Gird Your Life With Truth



Ephesians 6:14-15

"Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

1. What is Truth?

- 1. Conformity to fact or actuality. 2. Fidelity to an original or standard. 3. Reality; actuality. 4. A statement proven to be or accepted as true. 5. Sincerity; integrity. 6. God.
- "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened." *Winston Churchill*
- Absolute Truth vs. relative truth

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Ephesians 6:14-15

"If something is true, stating it a million times does not make it any truer. Similarly, if something is false, stating it a million times does not make it true."
(Bert Thompson, Ph.D.)

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1. What is Truth?

Absolute Truth

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    A[Absolute Truth] --> B[General Truth]
    A --> C[Revealed Truth]
    B --- D[Romans 1:18-25]
    C --- E[John 17:13-17]
    
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Ephesians 6:14-15

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1. What is Truth?

- **John 18:37,38** – What is truth?
- Not what, but Who?! **Hebrews 13:8!**
- "The words why, when, where, and how are all words of the faithless. The only word spoken by a man or woman of faith is 'Who.' And the 'Who' will lead you to Him."
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
- **John 14:5-6** – JESUS IS THE TRUTH
 - Jesus is our hope, our joy, our righteousness, our life!

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- Every been on the receiving end of a lie?

“If you tell a lie long enough, loud enough and often enough, the people will believe it.”

“The broad mass of a nation... will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one.”

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945, *Mein Kampf* (1925) vol.1)

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- Every been on the receiving end of a lie?
- **“Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave” (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990)**
 - **Charles Darwin:** *natural and societal progression.*
 - not from seeking and following God, but by impersonal forces, natural selection, and survival of the fittest.
 - **Karl Marx:** *somewhat discredited, but socialism is very much alive and well.*
 - No God.
 - Natural world is ultimate and final reality.
 - Societies progress through strict governmental control.

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- **“Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave” (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990)**
 - **Julius Wellhausen:** *higher criticism, religious liberalism*
 - In the past, the Bible was held to be God’s revelation of His will for mankind.
 - And human reason was admitted to be fallible, the Bible was held to be infallible.
 - Then religious liberalism was born, wherein it is declared that human reason was totally dependable and the Bible could not be seriously trusted, but was more of a product of the original authors, than words from the Divine.

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- **“Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave” (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990)**
 - **Sigmund Freud:** *looking for the truth within*
 - “Expressing contempt for all religion, which Freud saw as ‘mental infantilism’ or ‘mass delusion,’ the essence of psychology is the belief that God does not intimately interact with man, and that there is a force, or libido, within mankind that, properly analyzed and controlled, will lead him to greater social progress.”

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- **“Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave” (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990)**
 - **John Dewey:** *humanistic education is our only hope*
 - If man is no longer a sinner and can find the truth within himself, then we need to be educated rather than regenerated.
 - There is no foundational truth.
 - Nothing is settled, final, or sure, but only subject to further research, speculation, and debate.
 - “In a word, Dewey’s educational philosophy can be summed up in one word: experience. Truth, be believed, was only found in experience. We must not concern ourselves with truth, but with meaning.”
 - **John Maynard Keynes:** *the government is God.*

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- **“Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave” (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990)**
 - **Soren Kierkegaard:** *confusion is everywhere*
 - The Father of Existentialism: A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe, and regards human existence as unexplainable, and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one’s acts.
 - Truth is Subjectivity

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- C.S. Lewis as “John” in *A Pilgrim’s Regress*
- Truth is the dividing line between right and wrong.
- We are swimming in a sea of moral relativism, and without the solid rock of truth, we are destined to drift in and out of man’s opinions and lies, without any hope of experiencing life as it is intended to be lived.

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

*Knowledge is a deadly friend
When no one sets the rules,
The fate of all mankind I see
Is in the hands of fools.
Confusion will be my epitaph
As I crawl a cracked and broken path.*

(from Anthem by King Crimson, lyrics 1969 by Peter Sinfield)

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

- “Modern man has both feet firmly planted in mid air” (*Francis Schaeffer*)
- God has not given us the truth to make us miserable and boring, He has given us the truth to set us free to live the abundant life – life as it was intended to be lived.
- **John 8:31,32** – the truth shall make you free!
- “Without the Way there is no going; without the Truth there is no knowing; without the Life there is no living.” *A’Kempis*

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2. Does knowing the truth really matter?

“The tragedy of disbelieving in God is not that a person ends of believing in nothing, alas it is much worse, that person may end up believing in anything.”

(G.K. Chesterton)

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3. How is Christ our Truth?

1. “The truth is like a lion. Who ever heard of defending a lion? Just turn it loose and it will defend itself.” *Spurgeon*
2. Truth is like fire: what it cannot destroy, it purifies; what it cannot purify it destroys.
3. **John 14:6** – “I am the truth”
4. **1 John 1:5** – “God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all”
5. **Matthew 4:1** – “it is written”
6. **Matthew 7:24-27** – build your life on Him, not man
7. **John 8:31-32** – “abide in My word”
8. **John 17:17** – “Thy word is truth”
9. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – “all scripture”
10. **2 Timothy 2:15** – “study”