

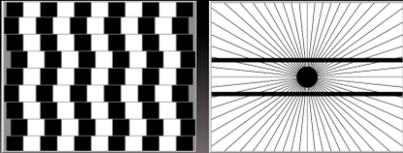
THE TRUTH



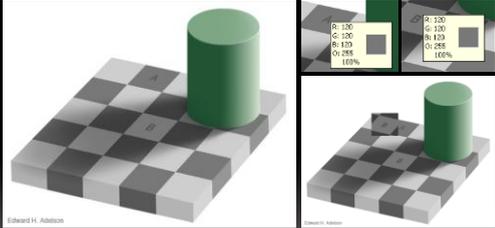
Ephesians 6:10-14 – “having girded your loins with truth”

- Girding ones loins is a metaphor for being in a readied position to fight.

1. Truth – why start here?



THE TRUTH

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1. Truth – why start here?

- Because if there is no such thing as Truth, then all is relative *and therefore unknowable*.
- If there is Truth, then a sincere search for it will lead to an accurate understanding of reality and ones reasoning will have grounds on which to validate various truth claims.
- Colossians 2:8** – “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception...”
- Is Paul against philosophy?
 - Absolutely not.
 - Philosophy – “love of wisdom” is riddled throughout the OT.
 - Proverbs 1:7; 2:6; 3:5,6; 3:19,20**
- He just demands that we start at the right place: In the beginning, God! (**Romans 1:18-23**)

THE TRUTH



2. Truth – what is it?

- Conformity to fact or actuality; fidelity to an original or standard; reality; actuality; a statement proven to be or accepted as true; sincerity; integrity; God.
- Truth by its very nature is:
 - Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
 - “... our thinking should strive to eliminate ideas that are vague, contradictory, or ambiguous, and the best way to accomplish this, and thereby ground our thinking in clear and distinct ideas, is to strictly follow laws of thought.” (James Danaher, *The Laws of Thought*)
 - “The great Parmenides from beginning to end testified ... ‘Never shall this be proved - that things that are not are.’” (Plato, *Sophist*, 237A)

THE TRUTH



2. Truth – what is it?

- Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
 - Law of Identity (LID)**
 - Something is what we say it is (A is A)
 - This is a tautology: If any statement is true, then it is true.
 - What about: “The United States of America is made up of 13 states.”
 - Obviously true in 1790, but not true today.
 - Elliptical statements** – those that change *over time*.
 - “The United States of America was made up of 13 states in 1790.” True then, *true today*.

THE TRUTH



2. Truth – what is it?

- Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
 - Law of Noncontradiction (LNC)**
 - Contradictory statements cannot both, *at the same time and in the same sense*, be true. (A cannot be non-A)
 - “A is B” and “A is not B” are mutually exclusive
 - It is self-evident and unavoidable: it must be used in any attempt to deny it!
 - “I deny the law of noncontradiction” – is like saying, “I believe non-A, therefore I reject A”
 - “There is no such thing as Truth.” – It is *true* that there is nothing true.



2. Truth – what is it?

1. **Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
2. **Law of Noncontradiction (LNC)**
 - Contradictory statements cannot both, *at the same time and in the same sense*, be true. (A cannot be non-A)
 - Equivocation – it is raining outside, it is not raining outside
 - Both can be true! One is Boise, one is Seattle.
 - Equivocation only gets one out of an actual contradiction; it doesn't get one past the LNC!
 - **1 John 2:21** – "... no lie is of the truth."
 - The death of Judas – **Matt 27:3-8** or **Acts 1:16-19**?
 - Judas was hung and Judas fell down. No contradiction
 - **Theistic Evolution** is a double violation of the LNC: There is no God and He created the uncreated.



2. Truth – what is it?

1. **Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
 - **Eight Results from Denying the LNC:**
 1. To deny the necessity and validity of the Principle of Contradiction would be to deprive words of their fixed meaning and render speech useless.
 2. Reality of essences must be abandoned; there would be becoming without anything that becomes; flying without a bird; accidents without subjects in which to inhere.
 3. There would be no distinction between things. All would be one. Ship, wall, man would all be the same thing.
 4. It would mean the destruction of truth, for truth and falsity would be the same thing.
 5. It would destroy all thought, even opinion, for its affirmation would be its negation.



2. Truth – what is it?

1. **Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
 - **Eight Results from Denying the LNC:**
 6. Desire and preference would be useless, for there would be no difference between good and evil; there would be no reason to go home, for to go home would not be different from staying where one is.
 7. Everything would be equally true and false at the same time, so that no opinion would be more wrong than any other even in degree.
 8. It would make impossible all becoming; change, or motion. For all this implies a transition from one state of being to another; but if the Principle of Contradiction is false, all states of being are the same.



2. Truth – what is it?

1. **Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
3. **Law of Excluded Middle (LEM)**
 - A statement is either true or false (It is either A or non-A, but not both A and non-A)
 - Is she pregnant? Sort of...
- **Summary:**
 - **LID:** *If a statement is true, then it is true.*
 - **LNC:** *No statement can be both true and false.*
 - **LEM:** *The true statement must be one or the other.*

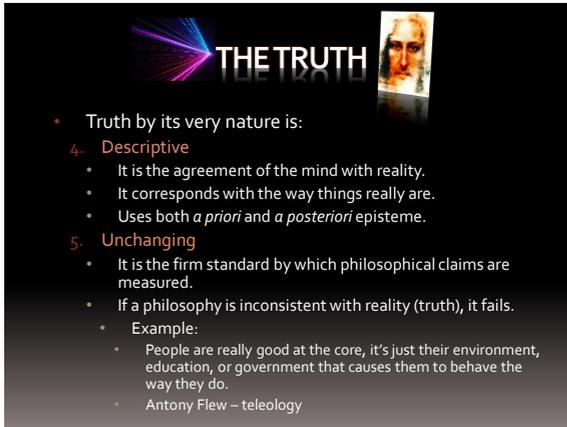


2. Truth – what is it?

1. **Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (the laws of thought)
 - "When properly used, the laws of thought act as the main logical gears that form the power train of the reasoning process that produces correct thinking. ... Logic by itself will not help us find truth but will only help us detect error. What is true must be logical, but what is logical is not necessarily true." (Geisler)
 - Two plus two equals four – is *logical* and *true*
 - Two Ewoks plus two Ewoks equals four Ewoks – is *logical*, but may or may not be *true*.

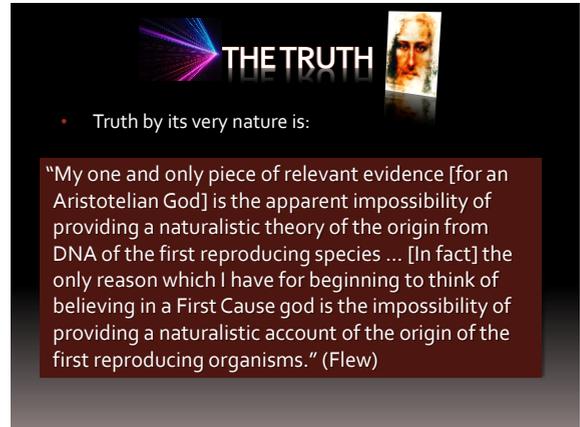


- Truth by its very nature is:
2. **Absolute** – it does not depend upon time, place, or conditions.
 - Claims against absolute truth are self defeating (violate the LNC): *there is absolutely no absolute truth.*
 - Kant's hard agnosticism (although we know *that* reality exists, *what* reality is in itself (its essence) cannot be known by human reason).
 - he claimed to have knowledge of what he declared to be unknowable – "*I know that reality is unknowable.*"
3. **Discovered**, not determined
 - It exists independently of our minds (like the Law of Gravity)
 - We do not create it (it is not relative in nature, but absolute)



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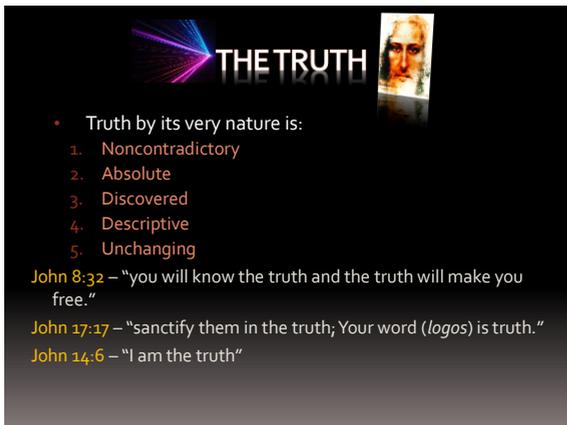
- Truth by its very nature is:
 4. **Descriptive**
 - It is the agreement of the mind with reality.
 - It corresponds with the way things really are.
 - Uses both *a priori* and *a posteriori* episteme.
 5. **Unchanging**
 - It is the firm standard by which philosophical claims are measured.
 - If a philosophy is inconsistent with reality (truth), it fails.
 - Example:
 - People are really good at the core, it's just their environment, education, or government that causes them to behave the way they do.
 - Antony Flew – teleology



THE TRUTH

- Truth by its very nature is:

"My one and only piece of relevant evidence [for an Aristotelian God] is the apparent impossibility of providing a naturalistic theory of the origin from DNA of the first reproducing species ... [In fact] the only reason which I have for beginning to think of believing in a First Cause god is the impossibility of providing a naturalistic account of the origin of the first reproducing organisms." (Flew)



THE TRUTH

- Truth by its very nature is:
 1. Noncontradictory
 2. Absolute
 3. Discovered
 4. Descriptive
 5. Unchanging

John 8:32 – "you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."

John 17:17 – "sanctify them in the truth; Your word (*logos*) is truth."

John 14:6 – "I am the truth"