

SCIENCE AND FAITH

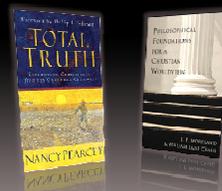
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SCIENCE AND FAITH

Part 1:

Building the Foundation: Truth



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

1. Truth – the way things really are

- John 14:6 – “I am the Truth”
- John 1:14 & 17 – grace AND truth
- John 17:17 – Sanctify in the truth
- Ephesians 6:14 – “gird your loins with truth”



Why start with Truth?

If there is truth, then my search for it will lead to an accurate understanding of reality and my reasoning will have grounds on which to validate various truth claims.

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

2. Truth – what is it?

- Conformity to fact or actuality
- fidelity to an original or standard
- reality
- actuality
- sincerity
- integrity
- God
- Truth by its very nature is:
 1. **Noncontradictory** – it does not violate the basic laws of logic (LID, LNC, LEM, etc...)



JESUS IS THE TRUTH

- 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*
 - Example: Kant's hard agnosticism: although we know *that* reality exists, *what* reality is in itself (its essence) cannot be known by human reason.
 - This is self defeating! (violates the LNC)
 - He claimed to have knowledge of what he declared to be unknowable – “I *know* that reality is *unknowable*.”



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- Truth by its very nature is:
 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)
 4. **Descriptive**
 - It is the agreement of the mind with reality.
 - It corresponds with the way things really are.



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- Truth by its very nature is:
- 5. Unchanging
 - It is the firm standard by which philosophical claims are measured.
 - If a philosophy is inconsistent with reality (truth), it fails (or at least it should).
 - 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.
 - Truth: **Jeremiah 17:9** – "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick (or wicked)"
 - The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.

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3. Truth – what has happened to it?
 - "Truth is so obscured nowadays and lies [are] so well established that unless we love the truth we shall never recognize it." Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)
 - *Seven Men Who Rule the World From the Grave* (David Breese, Moody Press, 1990):
 1. **Charles Darwin** – man and societies evolve; **everything changes**
 2. **Carl Marx** – working class with help from big government can overthrow their oppressors
 3. **Julius Wellhausen** – **higher criticism and religious liberalism**
 4. **Sigmund Freud** – **truth is found by looking within man**
 5. **John Dewey** – **man needs to be educated, not regenerated**
 6. **John Maynard Keynes** – **the government is God**
 7. **Soren Kierkegaard** – confusion is everywhere; **truth is subjective**

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

3. Truth – what has happened to it?
 - **Julius Wellhausen** – higher criticism and religious liberalism.
 - In the past, the Bible was held to be God's revelation of His will for mankind.
 - Human reason was admitted to be fallible, the Bible was held to be infallible.
 - Enter, religious liberalism – reason over revelation.
 - Man's reasoning ability was not affected by the fall and thus man, using his reason, could answer the philosophical questions of life without help from revelation (Plato's cave analogy)
 - The Bible was reduced to more of a product of the original authors, with helpful information concerning salvation, but not direct words from the Divine.

Absolute Truth	
General Truth <i>(Rom 1:18-24)</i>	Revealed Truth <i>(John 17:19-21)</i>

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JESUS IS THE TRUTH

4. Truth – the importance of it.
 - Truth enables the construction of an objective, concrete, unchanging foundation.
 - **John 14:6** – Truth and God never change.
 - **Malachi 3:6** – "For I, the Lord, do not change"
 - **Hebrews 13:7-9a** – "Jesus Christ is the same"
 - **James 1:17** – "with whom there is no variation"
 - Because He never changes, He is knowable.
 - Because He never changes, I can rest my life on Him.
 - Because He never changes, my reason can be grounded in reality

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

4. Truth – the importance of it.
 - Because He never changes I can be set free from the myopia that plagues humanity
 - **John 8:12,31,32** – "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
 - **Matthew 7:24-27** – The Wiseman builds his house on the rock (Truth – outside of man) – not the sand (Knowledge – man compiled)