



*The contrary of a truth can never be demonstrated - Thomas Aquinas*

# Confident Christians

## Does Absolute Truth Exist?

Or is everything just relative, unknowable, or equally true?

### What Truth Is/Is Not

So what is truth? Truth is:

- That which corresponds to reality.
- That which matches its object.
- Simply telling it like it is.

Key attributes of truth include:

- It is narrow and naturally excludes its opposite. 2+2 only equals 4 and nothing else.
- Is known by its referent/object. For example, a door may be on one person's right but another person's left.

Absolute truth is truth that is true for all people, in all places, for all time (point in time).

Truth is not:

- What works (pragmatism). Lies can work/accomplish a purpose.
- What makes us happy. Bad news can be true.
- Determined by majority vote/rule. 51% of the population can be wrong.
- What is coherent/understandable. A conspiracy can agree on a set of lies.
- What was intended. Good intentions can be wrong.
- What is comprehensive. A long presentation can reach a wrong conclusion.

### Oposing Views of Truth

The major opposing ideologies of absolute truth include the following:

**Relativism:** says all truth is relative. But is that statement absolutely true or just relative also? If it's absolutely true, then absolute truth exists. If it's not, it's meaningless. Relativism is self-defeating.

**Skepticism:** Doubts all truth. But should we doubt skepticism? If so, then it's meaningless; if not, then absolute truth exists. Skepticism is self-defeating.

**Post-Modernism:** Affirms no truth. But should we affirm post-modernism? If so, then absolute truth exists; if not, it's meaningless. Post-modernism is self-defeating.

**Pluralism:** All true claims are valid and equally true, even opposing views. But this is illogical thinking. Can a woman be both pregnant and not pregnant at the same time?

**Agnosticism:** Says you can't know truth. But can we know for sure that you can't know truth? If so, then absolute truth exists; if not, then why believe agnosticism? Agnosticism is self-defeating.

In the end, all the views above are really agnostic – a belief in unbelief.

### Objections to Absolute Truth

The following are some of the normal objections to absolute truth:

It's arrogant to claim you have the truth.

- It is arrogant to claim that 2+2 only equals 4?
- Is it arrogant to claim that only one key fits a locked door?
- Is it arrogant or loving to point out real error to people?

It's narrow-minded to claim you have the truth.

- 2+2 only equals 4. Why not accept other answers?
- Truth, by definition, excludes its opposites and is narrow.
- The logical law of non-contradiction says that something cannot be "A" and "Non-A" at the same time and in the same sense.

Absolute truth doesn't apply to the area of morals.

- Would people rather have their spouse be *absolutely* faithful to them or *relatively* faithful to them?

Absolute Truth is a fact and beyond dispute if one chooses to examine the evidence and think logically. As Thomas Aquinas said, "The contrary of a truth can never be demonstrated."