



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

Confident Christians

Why Truth Matters

Do consequences exist for ignoring truth?

Evidence that Truth Matters

Truth is necessary and demanded in many areas of life including:

- Health and medical situations. Taking the correct amount of a medication can save whereas overdosing on the same medication can cripple or kill.
- Financial situations. Everyone expects to be told the truth in regard to how much money they have in the bank or when dealing with a financial consultant who is investing their money.
- Transportation situations. Knowing that red means stop instead of go can mean all the difference in the world. Further, being misdirected onto the wrong flight at an airport can be quite unpleasant.
- Advertising situations. Misleading the public with false advertising is a crime.
- Manufacturing situations. People trust that the brakes on a car have been manufactured properly.
- Legal situations. No one takes an oath on a witness stand that starts with, "I promise to tell part of the truth/what I want the truth to be..."
- In relationships. No person wants their spouse to be *relatively* faithful, but instead demands they be *absolutely* faithful.

What about Spiritual Truth?

If truth matters in the physical realm, then why not in matters of spirituality? Critics claim truth can't be known in the spiritual world or that it doesn't exist:

"It's just a matter of 'faith'!"

- Faith is not something you have in the absence of truth and evidence. On the contrary, the New Testament word (*Pistos*) means, "conviction of the truth"; "reliability"; "that which evokes trust".

"Remember the six blind men feeling the elephant? They all came to different conclusions!"

- This is a bad analogy because (1) they were all wrong (2) we know they were wrong (3) knowing they were wrong actually demonstrates that truth exists and can be known.

"All religions are the same!"

- Religions only appear similar in minor respects, but in the major areas, they part company. They all differ in their view of God, Jesus, sin, salvation, and the afterlife. Remember that a counterfeit \$50 bill looks like the real thing, but it's still a fake.

Questions Leading to Truth

Because spiritual truth exists, and because differences matter (being wrong brings consequences), it's critical that spiritual truth be found. This can be done by:

- Asking the right questions
- Thinking logically
- Examining converging lines of evidence
- Excluding what is found to be false
- Embracing what is true and remains

Starting out on the path mandates that the right questions be asked, but of course the first question is – what are the right questions? The key questions, in order, are as follows:

1. Does absolute truth exist?
2. Can logic be used?
3. Does God exist?
4. Can God be known?
5. Is Jesus God?
6. Does God care about me?

Coming up with the truthful responses to the above questions will lead to ultimate spiritual truth, and answers to the big four areas of life – origin, ethics, meaning, and destiny.

What about you? Do you really want to know the truth? Many people don't. Nietzsche once said, "It is our preference that decides against Christianity, not arguments."

Truth in the area of spiritual matters is critical simply because Eternity is a long time to be wrong.