

# WHAT IS TRUTH?

We are engaged in a cultural and spiritual conflict about truth; not simply *what is true*, but more fundamentally *what is the nature of truth itself*. For the sake of completeness, you need to be aware that there have been three dominant theories of truth put forth by philosophers. First, there is the *pragmatic theory* of truth: *truth is what works*. Second, there is the *coherence theory* of truth: *truth is logical consistency (coherence) among a set of beliefs an individual holds*.

**Finally, there is the correspondence theory of truth: *truth is when an idea, belief, or statement matches (or corresponds with) the way the world actually is (reality)*.**

This can also be labeled as the **common sense** view of truth or the **real-world** view of truth. Simply put, the **real-world** view says that your thoughts, ideas, or statements are true if they correspond to reality—the real world. Put another way, a statement is true when it matches up with the way the world really is. There are several implications that flow from this definition.

**First, truth is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Second, truth \_\_\_\_\_ independently of its being \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Finally, truth is not \_\_\_\_\_.**

The Christian faith is based on the correspondence theory of truth (1 Corinthians 15:14-15). Our belief in the resurrection of Jesus is not true simply because it works for us (the pragmatic view) nor because it is consistent with our web of Christian belief (the coherence view). The Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ is true because it is an objective fact of history that corresponds with reality! Indeed, how could the early Christians point to the empty tomb as verifiable evidence of the resurrection unless, in fact, the tomb was empty?

Because we hold to the correspondence theory of truth, we believe objective truth exists and that truth can be discovered through research and through the revelation of God's Word. We believe we can know with certainty the truth about God, about the nature and purpose of humankind, about what is right and what is wrong, about marriage, about family etc.

And this is where the clash of worldviews occurs.

The *postmodern* worldview has no problem with the fact that the *Christian* worldview believes what it believes: the *postmodern* worldview takes offense that we think truth is objective, that we believe we can know the truth with certainty, and that we believe objective truth applies to all people, everywhere, all the time.

## **Postmodernism Defined (Dr. J.P. Moreland)**

*As a philosophical standpoint, postmodernism is primarily a reinterpretation of what knowledge is and what counts as knowledge. More broadly, it represents a form of cultural relativism about such things as reality, truth, reason, value, linguistic meaning, the self and other notions. **On a postmodernist view, there is no such thing as objective reality, truth, value, reason and so forth. All these are social constructions, creations of linguistic practices and, as such, are relative not to individuals, but to social groups that share a narrative.***

*Postmodernism denies the correspondence theory, claiming that truth is simply a contingent creation of language which expresses customs, emotions, and values embedded in a community's linguistic practices. **For the postmodernist, if one claims to have the truth in the correspondence sense, this assertion is a power move that victimizes those judged not to have the truth.***<sup>1</sup>

Because they do not believe objective truth exists and therefore, absolute truth cannot be known, for the postmodernist, to insist something is true and applies to everyone is not simply offensive, it is dangerous. Postmodernists believe we

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.str.org/w/truth-contemporary-philosophy-and-the-postmodern-turn?p\\_l\\_back\\_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DWhat%2Bis%2Btruth%253F](https://www.str.org/w/truth-contemporary-philosophy-and-the-postmodern-turn?p_l_back_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DWhat%2Bis%2Btruth%253F)

live in a Monopoly world in which we humans decide what is true. We decide what is right and wrong and we have the right to change the rules if we don't like them. That is what is happening in our culture with the LGBTQ movement and transgenderism.

As those who hold to the correspondence theory of truth, we hold that moral standards and values are objective truths that exist outside of ourselves and apart from our beliefs or feelings, like gravity. Further, we believe these objective truths and laws are revealed in the Bible. Lying is wrong is an objective truth applicable to all people everywhere at all times. Murder is wrong is an objective truth applicable to all people everywhere at all times whether or not they know it or believe it. Human beings are created in the image of God is an objective truth and is true of every person everywhere throughout human history. Marriage is a covenant union between one man and one woman for life. This is an objective truth revealed in the Bible and applicable to all cultures everywhere at all times. God created human beings as male and female. There are only two sexes. This is an objective truth revealed in God's Word and attested by genetics. We believe, as did our founding fathers, that the best form of government is one that seeks to govern according to the objective truths contained in Scripture.

The postmodern worldview is here to stay. It is the core doctrine of our secular universities. Our primary focus needs to be on discipling our children and grandchildren to understand the issues so that they might stand confident in the truth. We also need to vote for those leaders who hold to objective truth in their political platforms. We also need to guard our hearts against hatred. It is really hard, I know. But those who hold to postmodernism have been deceived by ideas that can be tracked back to Satan himself. They are not living the blessed life now. Eventually, they will believe in objective truth either in this life or certainly in the next.

GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS

- **Family Movie Night Fundraiser for Chris & Sarah Villanueva's adoption hosted by Bobby & Jaymee Lang. Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM. 2337 Vermont Street. Please RSVP by texting Sarah @ (619) 602-8283.**
- **Women's Worship Night, Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 PM, Sanctuary.**
- **Baby Dedication Informational Meeting, Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM, Modular. No signup.**
- **VOM Needs for July: Pack of 11" or longer Zip Ties / Lip balm, ChapStick.**