

# Fact or Fiction

## Message Notes

January 30/2022

Church-wide Requests: PRAY TOGETHER.

3. **Word & Truth** (1Pet 3:15): Know the Gospel, grow in discernment, speak the truth in love  
Cruise ship → → → Battleship

### A. Fact or Fiction?

**What is truth? Can we know the truth? Can we tell the difference between FACT or FICTION?**

If we are not confident in what we believe. We will not be confident in sharing our beliefs.

**TRUTH doesn't change. TRUTH doesn't mind being questioned. TRUTH stands the test of time. TRUTH is simple. TRUTH is not influenced by our feelings.**

**Definition of truth:** the quality or state of being true; that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality; a fact or belief that is accepted as true.

a phrase that I have heard often within the culture is this... "what's true for you, is true for you, what's true for me, is true for me."

**Leclae quote:** "if what's true for you is true for you and what's true for me is true for me. What if my truth tells me your truth is a lie. Is it still true?"

**This statement assumes that ALL TRUTH is subjective to our own interpretations.** This is false.

### SUBJECTIVE TRUTH vs OBJECTIVE TRUTH.

**Subjective Truth.** truth based off of a person's perspective, feelings, or opinions. With our opinions, what's true for me IS TRUE and for you, IS TRUE (or can be).

**For example:** I can think that cats are the best and you might hate cats. This is subjective. We can both be telling the truth when share our opinion.

**IMPORTANT:** sadly today, many people are allowing SUBJECTIVE TRUTH to DEFINE their picture of God and how they interpret the Bible.

**OBJECTIVE TRUTH: Truth is in fact a verified or indisputable fact.**

**For example:** Cats. I can point to a cat and say, "that is a cat" and that is TRUE regardless of your feelings, desires, experiences. For you to say, "that may be true for you, but for me, it is a dog" doesn't work here. We aren't talking about whether you LIKE cats more than dogs. We are simply stating a TRUE FACT.

**What about complex situations where facts and experiences are mixed? When subjective meets objective truth.**

Here we must guard against allowing our feelings and experiences to dictate what is true.

**WARNING:** parable of servant and talents... they all were under the same master but 2 saw the master one way and 1 another. "HE KNEW the master was harsh so he disobeyed"

**For example:** I had a gentleman I was trying to witness to... I asked him what he believed about God. At first, NOTHING. We chatted some more. And I asked what his parents believed? Then he started opening up and finally shared with me how he wasn't entirely sure... but wasn't into the whole church thing... but thought that he was a good person and if he was wrong and got to the "pearly gates" that the God would let him in. Based on his own goodness.

**Is this true? NO. Only FAITH in Jesus can save you. Our works CANNOT save us.** If God and Heaven are TRUE. Then God defines the pathway to Him and to Heaven. Not us.

**How did I respond?** I listened to him and affirmed that I understood where he was coming from... and appreciated that he was the kind of guy, that despite his troubles with drugs, always sought to help others... that was awesome. Then I asked him, what if he was wrong? If God was real. Wouldn't it make sense that he would define the way to heaven? H

**We must learn to be able BELIEVE & AFFIRM people as they share their experiences, feelings and opinions, but those experiences don't dictate TRUTH.**

Truth is factual, unchanging, or influenced by either our positive or negative experiences. We can empathize and encourage people and listen to their experiences. But those experiences do not dictate truth.

**When speaking truth:** The KEY is always presenting TRUTH with gentleness & respect. TRUTH IN LOVE. We can't force anyone to believe anything. Nor, should we try.

### **1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- As believers we must become MASTERS of this if we are to STAND FOR TRUTH IN LOVE.
- Listening, empathizing, affirming people WHILST being uncompromising on TRUTH.
- This takes training and a work of the Holy Spirit in us!
- People might have all sorts of experiences and beliefs about faith, God, and people as a result.

**Understanding how OBJECTIVE TRUTH & SUBJECTIVE TRUTH can work together:**

**Objective truth sets the boundary lines for our feelings, experiences and opinions (subjective)**

**PICTURE:** when you take a coloring book. The lines are already drawn. There are usually black lines bordering what you are supposed to see in the picture. Let's say you are looking at CAT... so you have this white page with the black outline of a CAT. So you take your crayons and begin coloring it in... first you grab one color, then the next, depending on your own feelings and creative genius!

This is a great way to see the relationship that OBJECTIVE & SUBJECTIVE TRUTH work together to create something BEAUTIFUL.

Whether I color the cat purple, or choose to color outside the lines, the boundary lines are consistent. They show a cat.

And the more I try and stay within those boundary lines? The more BEAUTIFUL the picture becomes! It comes to LIFE!

God is a God of BEAUTY! He loves creating MASTERPIECES – and he did so with ALL creation and humanity – but with that beauty he also created boundary lines that DEFINE TRUTH for us.

The BEST pictures are full of vibrant color and beauty! And you are able to clearly see what you are looking! It's not just color splashed on a page in random fashion...

**John 14:6 (ESV)** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**What does that mean? Jesus is TRUTH?** Jesus is saying... I am the Way – the only way to the Father and I am the truth – indisputable fact – He embodies truth and reality as he CREATED everything and... He is the LIFE – the only source of life and has the only true PATH to LIFE.

**Now the objection might come up in your minds!** "WAIT! I thought you said objective truth was fact based. We can't SEE God. How can we KNOW He is TRUTH?"

### **C. EVIDENCE BASED TRUTH: what can be agreed upon as true based on evidence we can observe**

**For example:** we all believe in gravity. Right? How many people have actually SEEN gravity? You might think, "I have seen it!" but really we haven't. We have only see the EVIDENCE of gravity. What goes up ALWAYS comes down.

**For example:** when you walk into the bush and see a path formed, with grass trampled, you can rightly assume that someone or some animal has been there. Or, you find a backpack, then you KNOW another PERSON has been there.

**For example:** we can all agree that it is TRUE that no one can be in two places at the same time. And that the converse to that is FALSE – regardless of someone's claim. This is called self-evident truth.

Our court systems use evidence and witness testimony to determine what is true.

**How does this relate to God? And why is this important?** As we move to GO THEREFORE... we WILL face opposition.

**For example:** they might say that a loving God wouldn't call out sin in people... it's not loving to tell people what they are doing is wrong! how can a loving God send people to hell? If God is real, he would have ended all of the suffering a long time ago!

When facing difficult questions and challenges. It's always best to go back to what we KNOW to be TRUE.

### **TWO FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS/ANCHOR POINTS:**

- 1. The existence of God as demonstrated through creation**

a. **Romans 1:20 (ESV)**

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

b. <https://youtu.be/6CulBuMCLg0> Kalam argument 4:31

**2. The Life, Death & Resurrection of Jesus**

a. **1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (ESV)**

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

b. Next week we are going to dive in deeper into how we KNOW the life, death & resurrection is true and how we can protect ourselves against DECEPTION as we navigate a world that is hostile to Truth.

**D. Practical Questions from the message**

1. What did you learn about God?
2. If what you learned was true. How does this effect your life?
3. Who can you share this with this week?

[Prayer@mysouthland.com](mailto:Prayer@mysouthland.com)

[Care@mysouthland.com](mailto:Care@mysouthland.com)