

1.14.2023

How Do I Know What's True?

Jesus:
"...The truth will set you free."
John 8:32 (NIV)

I. Signs of "Truth Decay" in a Culture

- **Immaturity**

"[Let us] no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like truth." Ephesians 4:14 (NLT)

- **Immorality**

*"They **don't care anymore** about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to **immoral ways**. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed."* Ephesians. 4:19 (NLT)

- **False Reality**

*"Since they refuse to trust truth, they're banished to their chosen **world of lies and illusions**."*
2 Thessalonians 2:12 (Msg)

- **Illegality**

"Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild..." Proverbs 29:18 (LB)

- **Idolatry**

*"Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they **deliberately chose to believe lies**. They worshipped the things God made but not the Creator Himself."* Romans 1:25 (NLT)

- **Injustice**

*"Our courts oppose people who are righteous, and **justice is nowhere to be found**. **Truth falls dead** in the streets, and fairness has been outlawed."* Isaiah 59:14 (NLT)

II. How Do I Know What's True?

1. Through **CREATION**

"For the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20 (NIV)

"The basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is!" Romans. 1:19 (Msg)

2. Through **MORALITY**

*"Some people naturally obey the Law's commands, even though they don't have the Law. This proves that **the conscience is like a law written in the human heart**. And it will show whether we are forgiven or condemned." Romans 2:14-15 (CEV)*

3. Through **CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH**

*"Fools will believe anything, but the wise **think about** what they do." Proverbs 14:15 (NCV)*

*"Anyone who **examines this evidence** will come to stake his life on this: that God Himself is the truth." John 3:33 (Msg)*

4. Through **GOD'S WORD**

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful **to teach us what is true** and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do **what is right**." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)*

5. Through a relationship with **JESUS**

*"I am the way and **the truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 (NIV)*

What to Do with the Truth

- **BELIEVE IT** Colossians 1:23 (NLT)
- **DO IT** Philippians 3:16 (NLT)
- **STAND FOR IT** 2 Corinthians 13:8 (NLT)
- **SPREAD IT** 3 John 1:8 (GW)

*"...Let everything you do reflect your love of the truth and the fact that you are in dead earnest about it."
Titus 2:7b (LB)*

Keep the conversation going...

1. Do you think it's easier/more difficult to know truth in today's culture? Why?
2. Have you ever had to change a belief or opinion because of something you read in the Bible? If so, explain.
3. Read Jeremiah 17:9. How does this verse stand against the common belief that people should "follow their heart"? Describe a situation where following your own heart led to negative results. How has believing that God is the standard for all truth impacted your life?