

# What Is Truth?

## Assertion of The Question of Reality

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### I. KEY CONCEPTS & THEMES

1. **The Big Questions and the Question of Truth:** The document begins by listing fundamental philosophical questions, with "What is real?" highlighted as a central inquiry. This sets the stage for a deep dive into the concept of truth, its definition, and its implications.
2. **Defining Truth:** Truth is defined etymologically, tracing back to Old English terms like "triwewð" and "treowewð" meaning "faith, faithfulness, fidelity, loyalty; veracity, quality of being true; pledge, covenant." Key qualities of truth include:
  - Associated with being faithful.
  - Associated with being veracity.
  - Associated with being sincere.
  - Associated with being consistent.
  - Associated with being correct.
  - Associated with being accurate.
3. **The Crucial Role of a Source of Authority:** A central theme is that "A source of authority is used to determine truth." This source "informs the person how to observe all things under heaven." The document asserts that "No one can live above or beyond their own source of authority," and "All people have a source of authority," which can even be competing.
4. **God as the Ultimate Source of Authority (Biblical Perspective):** The document argues that for a believer, God is the ultimate source of authority. This is established through Genesis 1 (**Spec. Genesis 1:1**). This statement establishes:
  - The Ultimate Source of Authority of reality (God).
  - An immaterial reality (God is unseen).
  - A material reality and its physical components (heaven and earth).
  - The credentials of those who can inform us about reality (God).
  - The origin and source of reality (God).

God's qualities, such as omniscience, omnipotence, transcendence, and wisdom, are highlighted as credentials for this authority.

5. **God's Word as the Informer of Reality and Conduct:** Genesis 2 is used to illustrate how God's word directly informed Adam about reality, its boundaries, and the consequences of violating it. (**Genesis 2:15-17**) describes God's command regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, stating that this "information given to Adam was to guide his conduct."
6. **Truth (Reality) within Scripture:** Numerous scriptural references are provided to demonstrate how truth is consistently tied to God and His word (**Daniel 9:3, Psalm 119:160, 2 Timothy 2:15, John 1:14, Psalm 31:5, John 16:13, 2 Thess. 2:13**).

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**7. Competing Sources of Authority and the Genesis 3 Account:** The narrative of Genesis 3 is presented as a crucial example of a "competing Source of Authority presented, and thus a competing truth/'reality'!" Satan's deception of Eve (**Genesis 3:1-4**) directly challenges God's word, offering an alternate "reality" ("You surely will not die!").

**8. Idolatry and False Authority:** Idolatry is linked to the adoption of a false source of authority. (**Isaiah 11:9-20**) is quoted, asking, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?", highlighting the self-deception inherent in embracing an alternative, false authority that then governs one's understanding of reality. Societal implications of false conduct stemming from false sources of authority are illustrated through examples from Jeremiah and Ezekiel concerning Israel's idolatry.

**9. The Trajectory of Rejecting Truth: (Romans 1:18ff)** is referenced to describe the consequences of rejecting God's truth, leading to an "Alternate 'Reality'" and a descent into various forms of unrighteousness. (**Colossians 2:1-4**) warns against "persuasive argument" that can "delude" individuals, emphasizing the need for "a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

**10. "Insanity" Defined from a Biblical Perspective:** The document revisits the initial question, "What is the explanation of 'insanity?'" The answer provided from a biblical perspective is: **"insanity is the active rejection of the truth of God, hence the active rejection of reality as God has established."** This contrasts with the cultural definition of "Doing the same thing and expecting a different result."

## II. SUMMARY OF CORE PRINCIPLES

The briefing concludes with a succinct summary of its main points:

- A source of authority determines truth.
- This authority informs how one observes everything.
- Truth corresponds to reality.
- Personal and social conduct should align with truth.
- Lies distort truth and, consequently, reality.
- The biblical worldview rejects falsehoods because they contradict the nature of God and are therefore "not real."