



1 WEEK 3: TOTAL TRUTH, APPLIED

This is the final session in our course “Total Truth, A course in practical Christian Epistemology”. We will continue to look at the unified story of reality we explored last week which we call Total Truth, as opposed to the relative and made up truth(s) of some illogical philosophies. In particular we will explore the application of the biblical view of truth and reality on the great questions we all share as Humans and the cultural issues of our day. Finally looking at our growth individually as Disciples of Jesus Christ and corporately as God’s people in the earth.

1.1 MODULES

1. Review
2. Questions, Answered
3. Counter Culture
4. The Spiritual Person
5. Course Summary

1.2 KEY SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 15:23 To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

Also see Ecclesiastes 3:11

Isaiah 1:16–17 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.

Also see Micah 6:8

Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness...”

1.3 KEY CONCEPTS

1.3.1 Life’s Great Questions, Answered

Who are we? Creatures, Human Beings, distinctly Male or Female. Created in the image of God, endowed by God with qualities like worth, dignity and reason. Created as persons with the capacity for choice, relationship, allegiance and belief.

Where and when do we live? The good creation made by God, designed to be inhabited and explored. We live after the fall; the universe is broken. We also live after the cross so can be redeemed but before the New Heaven and Earth when redemption will be full.



What's wrong with the world? The Sin of Adam and Eve has placed mankind and all creation into a fallen state of rebellion against God. Sin brings death to all it touches. Creation is under the holy-anger and judgment of God. Sin is a root cause of evil, pain and suffering in the world.

How can the world be fixed? Through the liberating truth of God, expressed most clearly through the bible and in particular through the Gospel or good news of Jesus the king, his victory and his Kingdom.

What is life / reality all about? God has a purpose in creation, to express his love, that he may be glorified and that man might love God, being satisfied, happy and flourishing in fellowship together with God in his good creation.

1.3.2 Counter Culture

As Christians we have the truth, the nature of the truth is total, affecting all of life. In light of this how do we live in this world, do we ride along with the cultural tide, the spirit of the age, keeping in step with conventional wisdom, the status quo, acceptable relativistic political correctness and cultural indifference... God forbid. We are called to live as **witnesses to the truth** just like Jesus, we are called to live counter cultural lives.

Poverty: There is poverty across the earth today. It is the clear call of God's people throughout scripture to minister to the needs of the poor. The truth of scripture points us to a reason for poverty and an answer to poverty.

Abortion: The biblical revelation of truth, of reality as it really is, sees man as a creature, designed in God's own image and endowed with worth, purpose and dignity. Abortion is another name for murder, infanticide (the killing of babies) should never be condoned whether inside or outside the womb. We must respond in love.

Orphans and Widows: Naturalism would see orphans and widows as a burden to society and the progress of man. Our stand as Christians is contrary to the culture. God is Father to the fatherless and the Husband to the Widows. As God's people we are called to minister to and provide for the least of these.

Sex Slavery: This is a very incontinent truth, it is not the sort of thing we like to think about in our sophisticated, detached and relatively comfortable lives but we are called to face this evil and answer it decisively and practically as God's representatives. These precious girls, women and even boys need our help in Jesus name.

Marriage: This has been under attack in various ways. Most recently the challenge of the LGBT sexual revolution and the so called redefinition of marriage needs to be answered by the true church of Jesus Christ. We need to address other attacks on marriage including divorce, the avoidance of commitment, the downplaying of its importance etc.

Sexual Morality: Our culture has become highly sexualised; this is associated to the last two points. Pornography, Adultery, sex outside of marriage, homosexuality and paedophilia all need to be addressed with the liberating truth of God and his word. God's good plan for sex, men and women must be recovered.

Ethnicity: We have recently seen the issue of Racism coming to the surface in America and even here in the UK. The other worldviews are woefully inadequate for dealing with Racism and in fact often give rise to it. The bible's view of mankind and people groups is the only answer to heal the divisions fostered by the devils lies today.

Religious Liberty: The bible upholds the religious liberty of all peoples, even those who do not believe as we do have the right to practise their beliefs in freedom and safety. Across the Islamic and Communist worlds in particular Christians are persecuted and killed for their faith. We are called to advocate for the church and address this injustice. In the west they want to shut us and our faith in the upper room with God, excluding us from the public lower room, but we will not be silent. It is for freedom that Christ set us free.

Unreached People Groups: The Gospel is true, total and ultimate truth, it is the means, the only means by which humanity can be saved in a full sense. The end of the story when all the earth is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord (Hab 2:14) cannot come until the Gospel is heard by every people group so we need to press forward in the missionary, disciple-making, church planting work of the church until Jesus, the king, returns.

1.3.3 Counter Culture Links

<http://www.counterulturebook.com/get-involved> This link contains a directory to help you reach out for each subject covered by David Platt's book, Counter Culture including Sex Trafficking, Poverty and Unreached People Groups.