

## HOT TOPICS

### Truth in a World of Opinions

#### *“What Is Truth?”*

#### Main Text

John 18:37–38 (NIV)

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

#### Introduction

We are living in a generation where truth is constantly being questioned. What used to be called right is now called wrong. What used to be called sin is now celebrated. What used to be called holy is now mocked.

We hear phrases like:

- “Live your truth.”
- “What’s true for you may not be true for me.”
- “There are no absolutes.”

But church, if truth changes with every person, then truth is no longer truth—it becomes opinion.

And in the middle of a confused culture, Jesus stands before Pilate and declares: “I came to testify to the truth.”

This series is called **Hot Topics** because the church cannot afford to stay silent on the issues shaping our world. But we will not respond with anger, politics, or compromise—we will respond with the Word of God.

This morning we answer one question:

**“What is truth?”**

## I. The Culture Questions Truth

### **John 18:38**

“What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

Pilate asked the same question our culture is asking today.  
Not because he wanted an answer—but because he doubted truth even existed.

Our world has moved from:

- “Truth matters” to
- “Truth is personal.”

We now live in a culture where feelings are treated as facts.  
If someone feels something strongly enough, society says it must be true.

But feelings change. Opinions change. Culture changes.  
God does not.

### **Malachi 3:6**

“I the Lord do not change.”

### **The Danger of Relative Truth**

If everybody creates their own truth:

- morality disappears,
- conviction disappears,
- repentance disappears,
- and eventually God disappears from society.

When truth becomes subjective, confusion becomes inevitable.

### **Isaiah 5:20**

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.”

We are watching this happen in real time.

- Darkness is celebrated.

- Holiness is criticized.
- Biblical conviction is labeled intolerance.

But the church must not become confused because culture is confused.

## **II. Jesus Does Not Just Speak Truth — He IS Truth**

### **John 14:6**

“I am the way and the truth and the life.”

Jesus did not say:

- “I know truth.”
- “I teach truth.”
- “I discovered truth.”

He said:

**“I AM the truth.”**

Truth is not merely a philosophy. Truth is a Person.  
When you reject Jesus, you reject truth itself.

## **Truth Is Absolute Because God Is Absolute**

Our culture hates absolutes.  
But every society lives by absolutes:

- gravity,
- laws,
- mathematics,
- consequences.

And spiritually, God has established eternal truth.

Just as mathematical laws do not change based on opinion, God’s moral law does not change based on culture.

### **Hebrews 13:8**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Truth does not evolve with society. Truth stands forever.

## **III. The Word of God Is Our Standard**

### **2 Timothy 3:16–17**

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...”

The Bible is not:

- man’s opinion,
- cultural commentary,
- or motivational literature.

It is God-breathed.

The Greek word for “God-breathed” is *theopneustos* (“theh-oh-PNYOO-stos”)

Meaning:

**“Breathed out by God.”**

The Bible carries divine authority.

## **The Problem With Modern Christianity**

Many people want:

- a God without holiness,
- salvation without repentance,
- grace without transformation,
- heaven without surrender.

But truth confronts us before it comforts us.

Truth says:

- sin is still sin,
- holiness still matters,
- repentance is still necessary,
- and Jesus is still the only way.

That may not be popular— but popularity has never determined truth.

#### **IV. Truth Without Love Becomes Harsh — But Love Without Truth Becomes Compromise**

This is where the church must be careful.  
Some churches preach truth with no compassion.  
Others preach love with no conviction.  
Jesus carried both.

#### **John 1:14**

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us... full of grace and truth.”

Notice:

- not grace OR truth,
- but grace AND truth.

Real biblical love does not affirm what destroys people.

If a bridge is out ahead, love warns people.

The most loving thing the church can do is preach truth clearly.

#### **V. Holiness Is Not Outdated**

The modern church often treats holiness like it is extreme.  
But holiness is still God’s standard.

#### **1 Peter 1:15–16**

“Be holy, because I am holy.”

Holiness means:

- set apart,
- consecrated,
- different from the world.

The church was never called to blend into culture. The church was called to transform culture.

### **Romans 12:2**

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world...”

The closer society moves away from God, the brighter true believers should shine.

## **VI. You Must Choose What Will Define Your Life**

Everybody builds their life on something:

- culture,
- emotions,
- politics,
- social media,
- relationships,
- or God’s Word.

### **Matthew 7:24–27**

Jesus said the wise man builds on the rock.

Storms reveal foundations.

And we are in a stormy generation.

If your beliefs are built on culture, they will collapse when culture shifts.

But if your life is built on truth, you will stand.

## **Closing Challenge**

Pilate asked:

**“What is truth?”**

But standing right in front of him WAS Truth.

And today people are still searching:

- in culture,
- in politics,
- in identity,
- in pleasure,
- in success.

But truth is still found in Jesus Christ.

Not partial truth. Not customized truth. Not cultural truth.  
But eternal truth.

## **Altar Call**

There are people today:

- confused by culture,
- compromised by sin,
- pulled by the opinions of the world,
- and spiritually unstable because truth has become optional.

But Jesus is calling His church back to conviction.

Back to holiness. Back to Scripture. Back to truth.

## **John 8:31–32**

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Freedom is not found in rejecting truth. Freedom is found in surrendering to it.