

Christopublicrats - Truth Trumps Tribe

Psalm 15:1-5; Jeremiah 9:1-9; John 8:31-47; John 14:6

Imagine NFL _____ go on strike and ask _____ to ref the next Saints game. Would you do it? Should you? If every _____ team was responsible for hiring refs for each game, what is likely to happen? Why?

We humans struggle to _____ the truth or _____ the truth if it hurts our "team". So, the NFL has strict rules regarding who can and can't referee their games. It doesn't always work, but it sure is _____ than it could be!

Unfortunately, in _____ and the _____, there are no strict rules on who judges the plays. Now, it's almost impossible to tell what is true and what is false. What's worse is few, if any, seem to _____.

Today Jesus makes two things abundantly clear. First, with all the "teams" and "tribes" today, there are really only _____: team Jesus and team Satan. Second, _____ is what separates them.

Truth is an _____ part of Jesus. Those who _____ him, reject truth and those who reject truth, reject him. It's why as Jesus prayed we would all be one, he prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth." (John 17:16-19)

Those challenging Jesus believed he posed a _____ to their way of life. So, they could not truly _____ him as he testified to our heavenly Father. Instead, the voice of another "father" the devil came in loud and clear.

The devil makes us _____: to sin, to death, to lies, to anger and rage, to tribes, and more.

The Son sets us _____: from sin, death, and the devil's lies, PTL!! From "going against the _____." From having to "remember" or hide anything. From owing any _____ to anyone but Christ.

Our _____ should be, "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God!" It may lead to:

- an awful lot of _____ in a world that demands instant, simple answers, and unquestioning loyalty.
- self reflection and public, as well as private _____.
- a _____ eye turned toward your own team.
- a more vigorous pursuit of _____.
- a more vigorous _____ life.

As Christians we are called to pray a bold prayer: *"Lord, show me how I have loved winning more than I've loved the truth. Show me where I have wanted to be part of and support a 'team' other than yours. Show me where the devils lies have led me away from the Way, the Truth, and the Life, your Son and my Savior, Jesus Christ. Help me to love you and the Truth more than anything. In Jesus Name. Amen."*

What are the teams and tribes in your life that are vying for your loyalty? _____

How is God showing you how they may be asking you to sacrifice truth for them? _____

What is God asking you to do to grow strong in the truth? _____

What are you going to do about it? _____
