

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ryland Walter | July 23-24, 2022

Week 2: The Source of Truth

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:10-17 (NIV)

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...

What Is Truth?

³³ Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him.

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"

³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

³⁷ Pilate said, "So you are a king?"

Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime. ³⁹ But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this 'King of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰ But they shouted back, "No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!" (Barabbas was a revolutionary.) John 18:33-40 (NLT)

1. What is truth?

Truth is _____

The prayer of Jesus: "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17 (NIV)

2. How does truth protect us from the devil's schemes?

Truth keeps us from being tripped up
by our _____

Jesus: "(The devil) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. When he (the devil) lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 (NIV)

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NIV)

3. How do we buckle on truth?

We choose to act _____

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹ Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. ²⁰ Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. 1 John 3:16-20 (NLT)

TRUTH IS NOT JUST A _____ BUT A _____

Jesus told Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NLT)

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Truth keeps us from being tripped up
by our temptations

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THE SOURCE OF TRUTH
Talk-it-Over Notes | July 23-24, 2022

REVIEW IT

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.” Jesus said he came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize what I say is true.” What is truth? Truth is what God says... His word is truth. How can that help protect me from the devil’s schemes? Truth keeps us from being tripped up by our temptations because temptation always begins as a lie. How do we “buckle on truth?” By choosing to act in love toward others. Truth isn’t truth if it’s not confident enough to love others. Why? Because truth is not just a what, but a who. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Spend some time in the word... **Read John chapter 14**

TALK ABOUT IT

- What is truth? *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”* (John 17:17) How would you define truth?
- Think about the temptations with which you’ve struggled. Can you identify the lie behind the temptation? (For instance: “If I don’t do this, I’ll be rejected.” “If I don’t do this, I’ll be missing out.” “If I do this, it won’t really affect things much.”)
- Why is love useless without truth and truth useless without love? In other words, how could being “all truth” or “all love” be ineffective?

ACT ON IT

How do we buckle on truth? We choose to act in love toward others. What’s something you could do that would be full of truth and love for others this week?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take some time to ask how you can pray for and support one another this week. Pray that the truth will win out in your family, relationships, school and workplace.