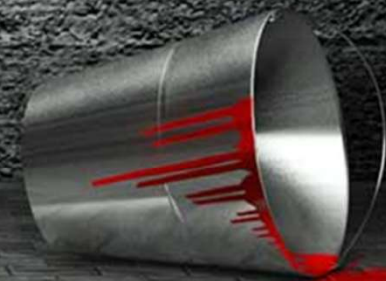


TOLERANCE

Or
Truth?



“We love the truth
when it enlightens us,
but we hate it when it
convicts us.” Augustine





Is there such a thing as truth?

Can we know what truth is?

Is truth relative?

How do we handle the tension between truth and tolerance?

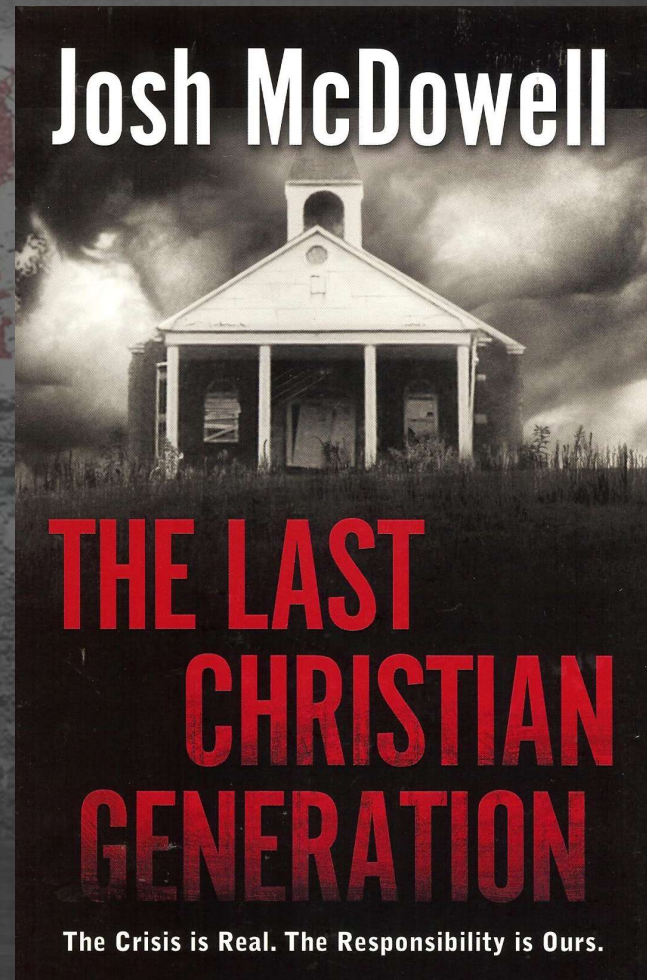


We expect the truth from: loved ones, doctors, airline pilots, banks, employers, judges

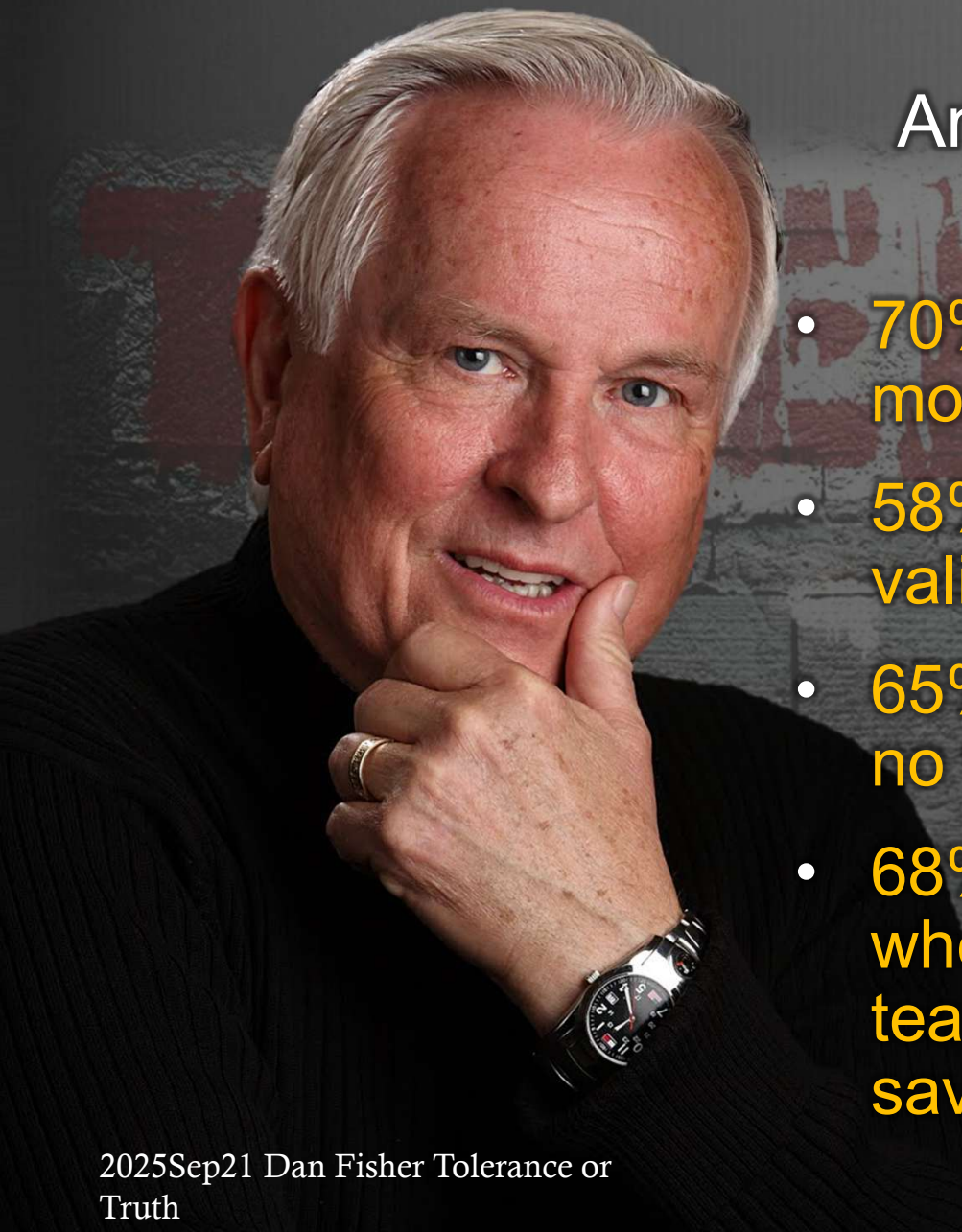
We expect to be told the truth when we pick up a book, newspaper, or watch the news

But many of us say we aren't interested in truth when it comes to morality and religion.

Our society is suffering from cultural schizophrenia.



2025Sep21 Dan Fisher Tolerance or
Truth



Among those who grew up in Christian homes:

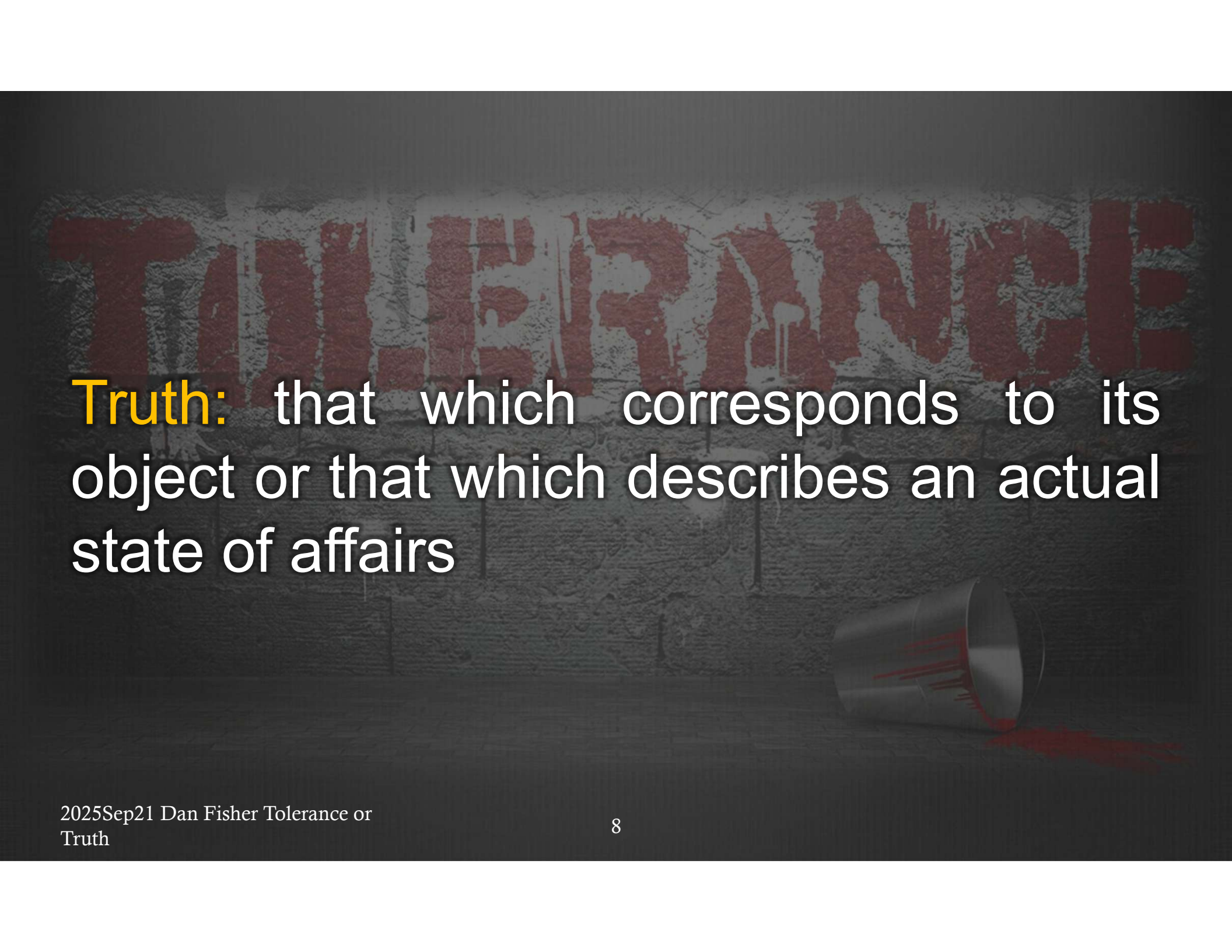
- 70% believe there is no absolute moral truth
- 58% believe all faiths teach equally valid truths
- 65% believe or suspect that there is no way to tell which religion is true
- 68% believe that “good” people who reject the fundamental teachings of Christianity can still be saved and go to heaven



2025Sep21 Dan Fisher Tolerance or
Truth

Jn 18:38 Pilate said to
Him, "What is truth?"





Truth: that which corresponds to its object or that which describes an actual state of affairs

“In a sort of ghastly simplicity we remove the organ and demand the function. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.”

C.S. Lewis

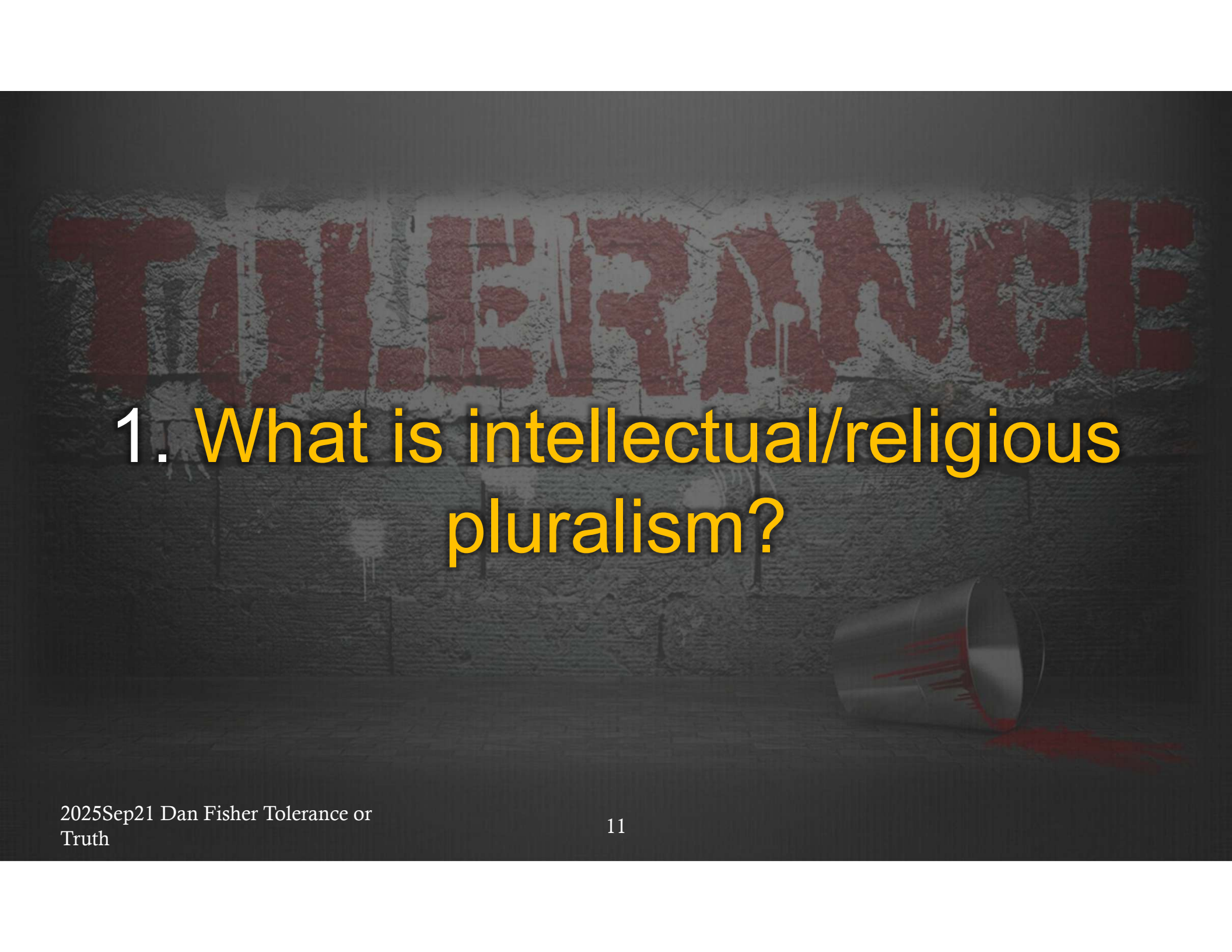


The background of the slide is a dark, textured image. It appears to be a wall with red graffiti that says "TRUTH" in large, blocky letters. In the lower right corner, there is a spilled paint can, with red paint spilling out onto the ground.

Tolerance (traditional): recognition and respect given to views, beliefs, practices, etc. different from one's own

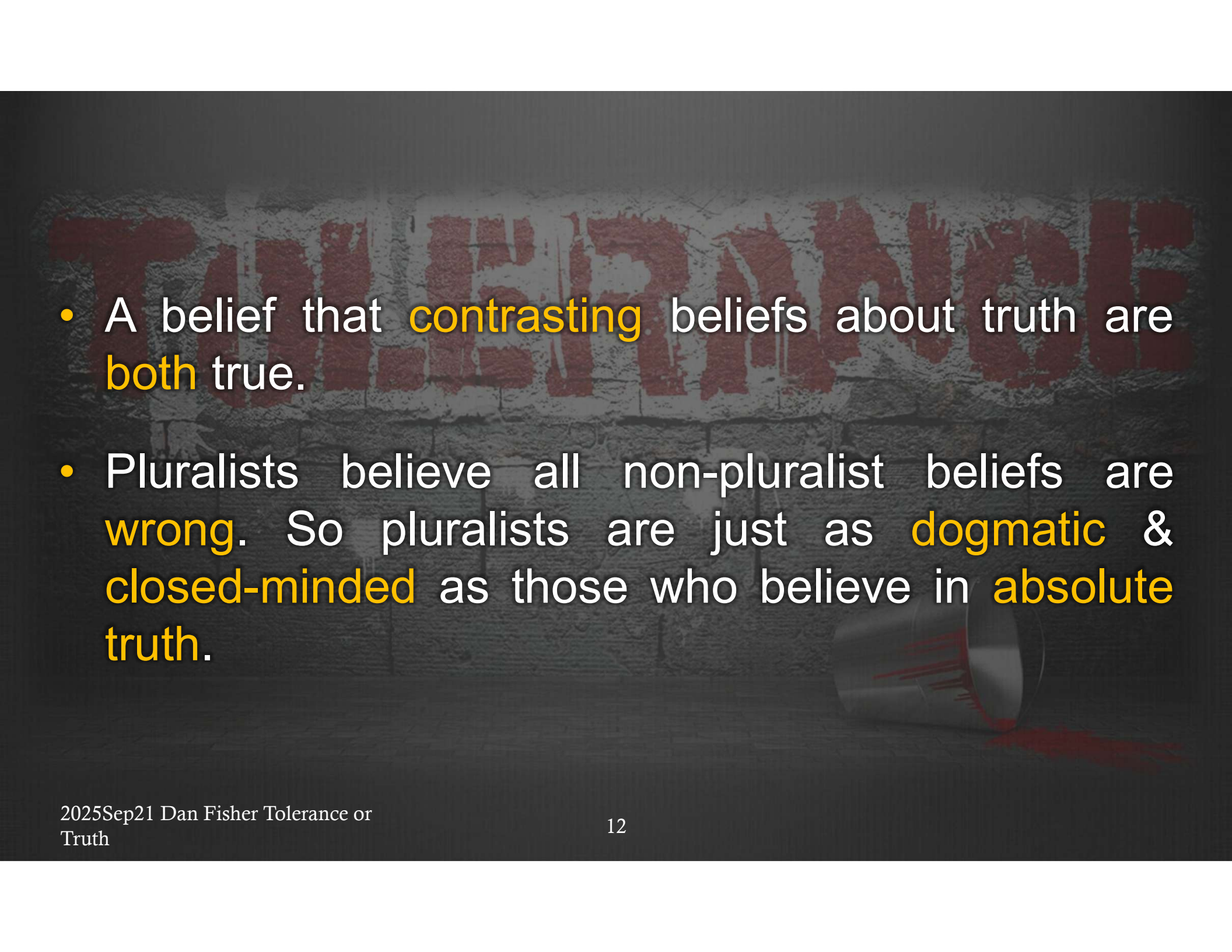
Tolerance (modern): acceptance of every belief as true.

This position produces intellectual and religious pluralism.



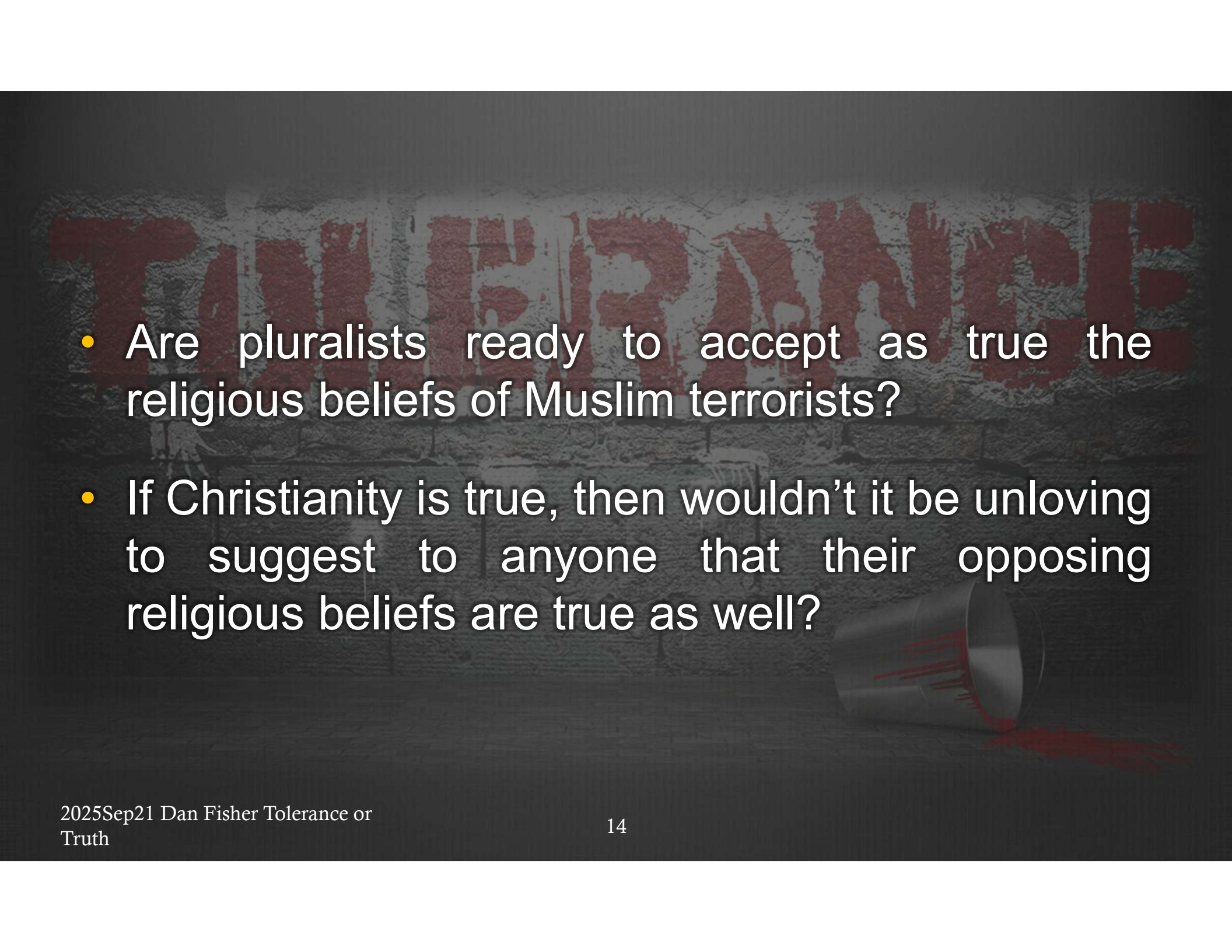
TOLERANCE

1. What is intellectual/religious pluralism?

- 
- The background of the slide features a dark, textured wall. In the upper portion, the word "TOLERANCE" is painted in large, bold, red capital letters. The paint appears slightly weathered or splattered. In the lower right foreground, a silver metal paint can lies on its side, with a pool of red paint spilled out from its opening onto the dark floor.
- A belief that **contrasting** beliefs about truth are **both** true.
 - Pluralists believe all non-pluralist beliefs are **wrong**. So pluralists are just as **dogmatic** & **closed-minded** as those who believe in **absolute** truth.



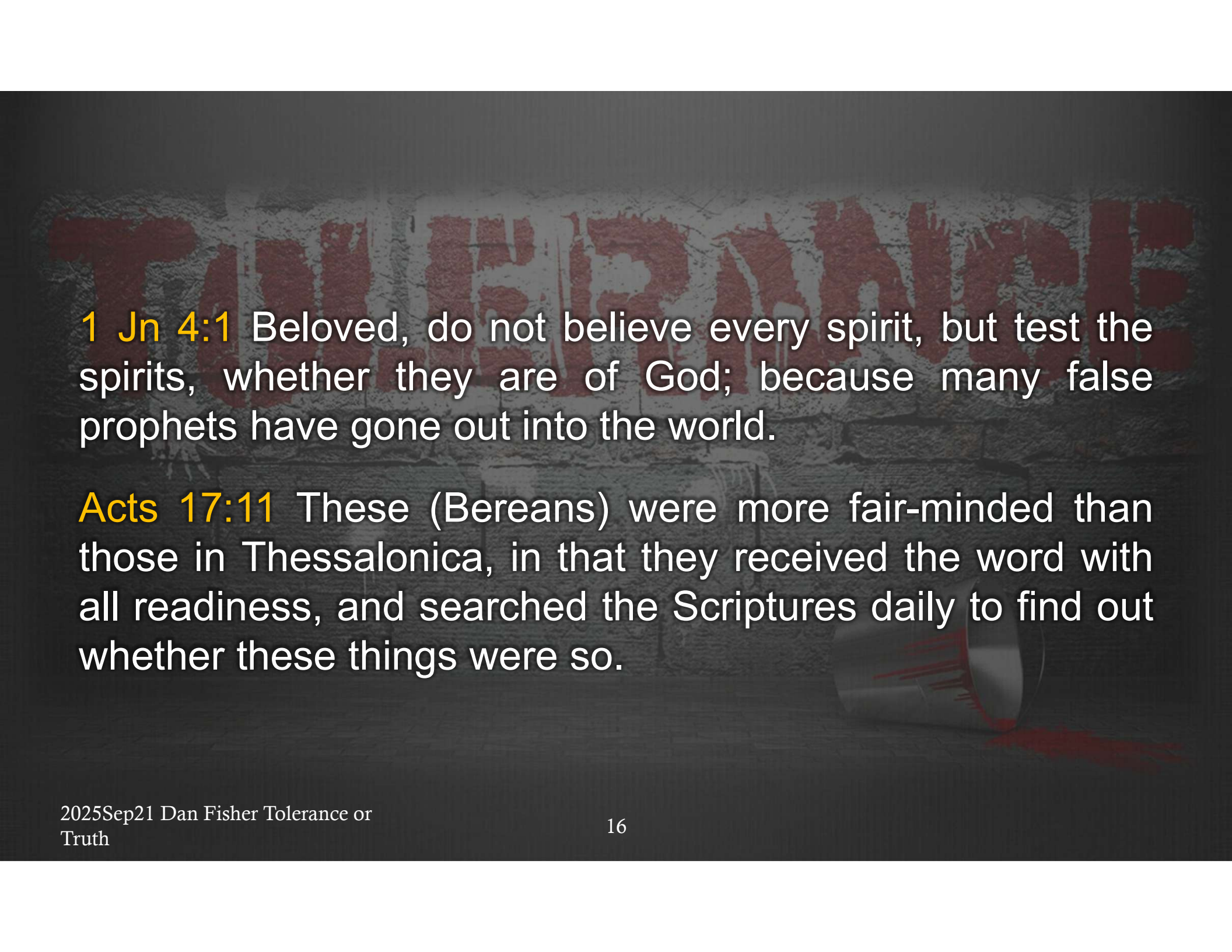
2. Questions pluralists must answer:

- 
- Are pluralists ready to accept as true the religious beliefs of Muslim terrorists?
 - If Christianity is true, then wouldn't it be unloving to suggest to anyone that their opposing religious beliefs are true as well?

TOLERANCE

3. The Bible commands Christians to question religious beliefs:





1 Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

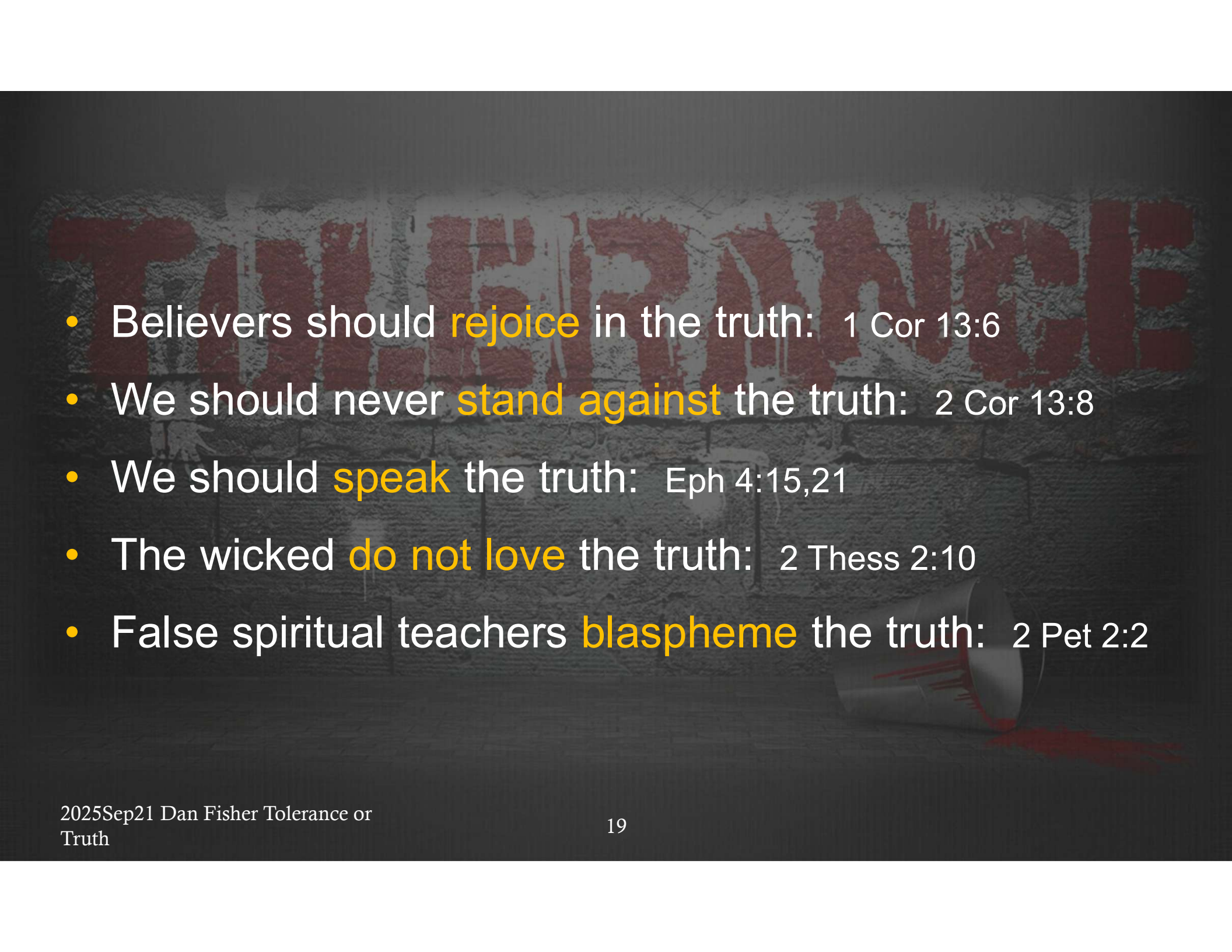
Acts 17:11 These (Bereans) were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

TOLERANCE

4. What Scripture says about truth:



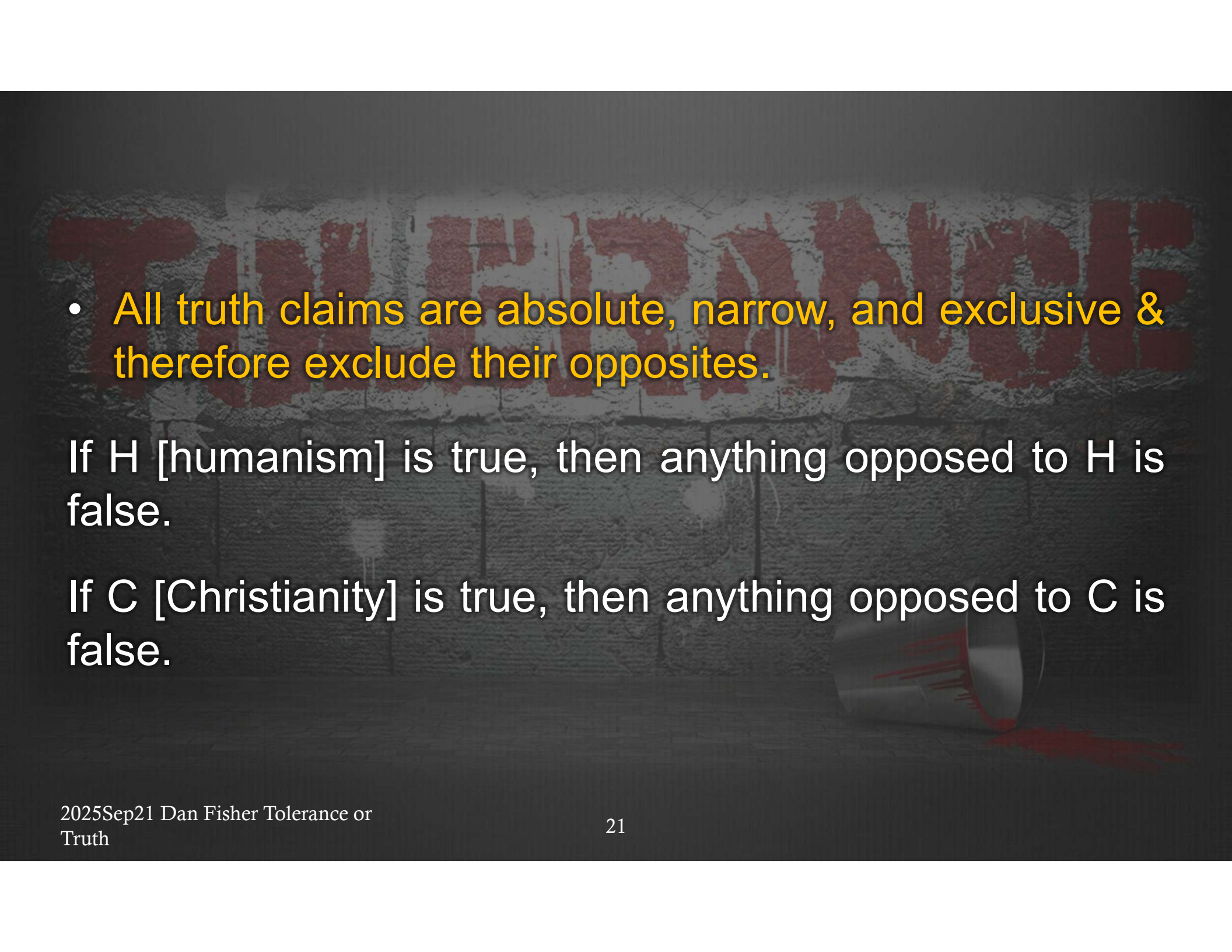
- Jesus said the truth will **make us free**: Jn 8:32
- Jesus was **full** of grace & truth. Grace & truth **came through Jesus**: Jn 1:14,17
- **Jesus is** the truth: Jn 14:6
- The Holy Spirit is the **Spirit of truth**: Jn 15:26;16:13
- **God's Word** is truth & we are **sanctified** by it: Jn 17:17
- The **ungodly suppress** the truth & **exchange** the truth **for a lie**: Rom 1:18,25

- 
- Believers should **rejoice** in the truth: 1 Cor 13:6
 - We should never **stand against** the truth: 2 Cor 13:8
 - We should **speak** the truth: Eph 4:15,21
 - The wicked **do not love** the truth: 2 Thess 2:10
 - False spiritual teachers **blaspheme** the truth: 2 Pet 2:2



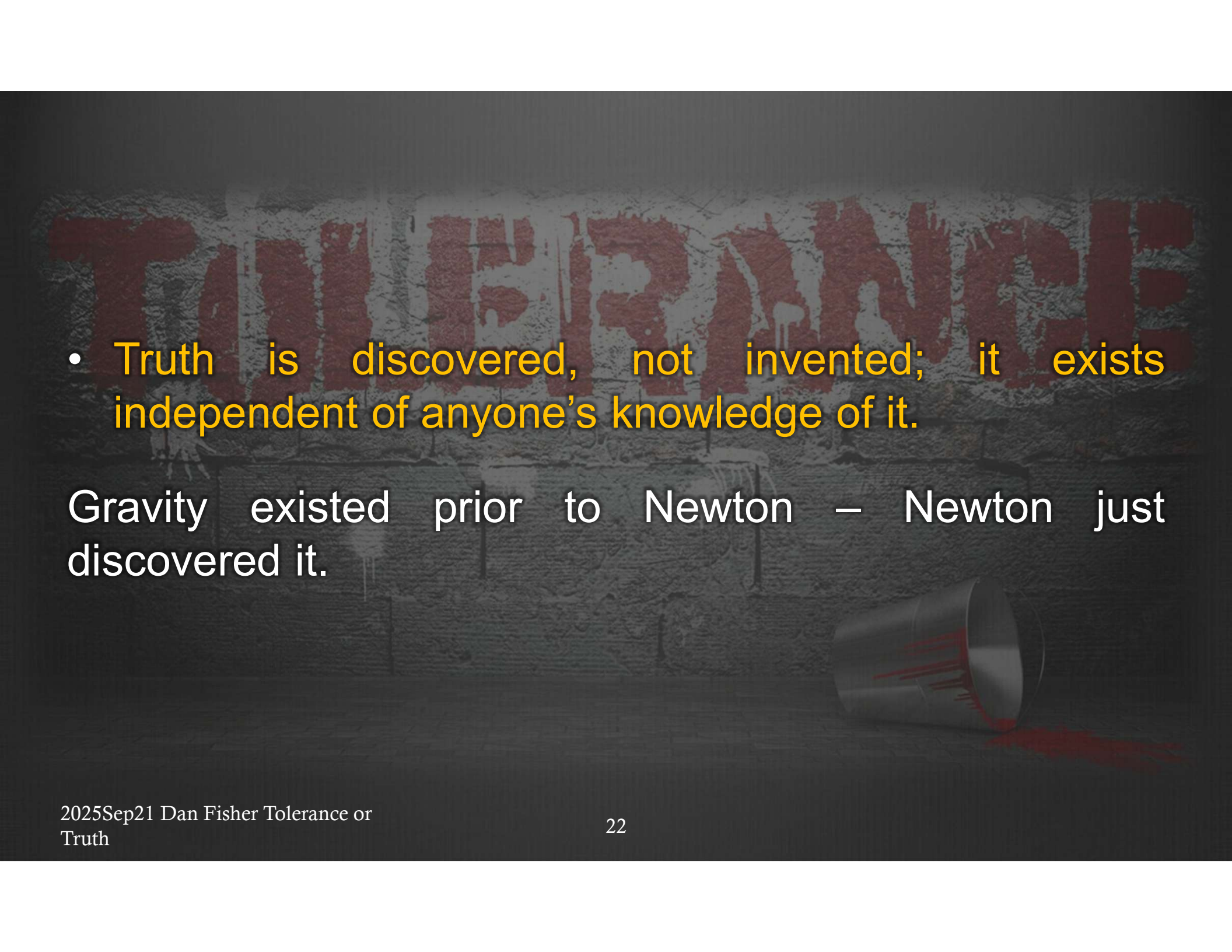
TOLERANCE

5. Truths about truth:

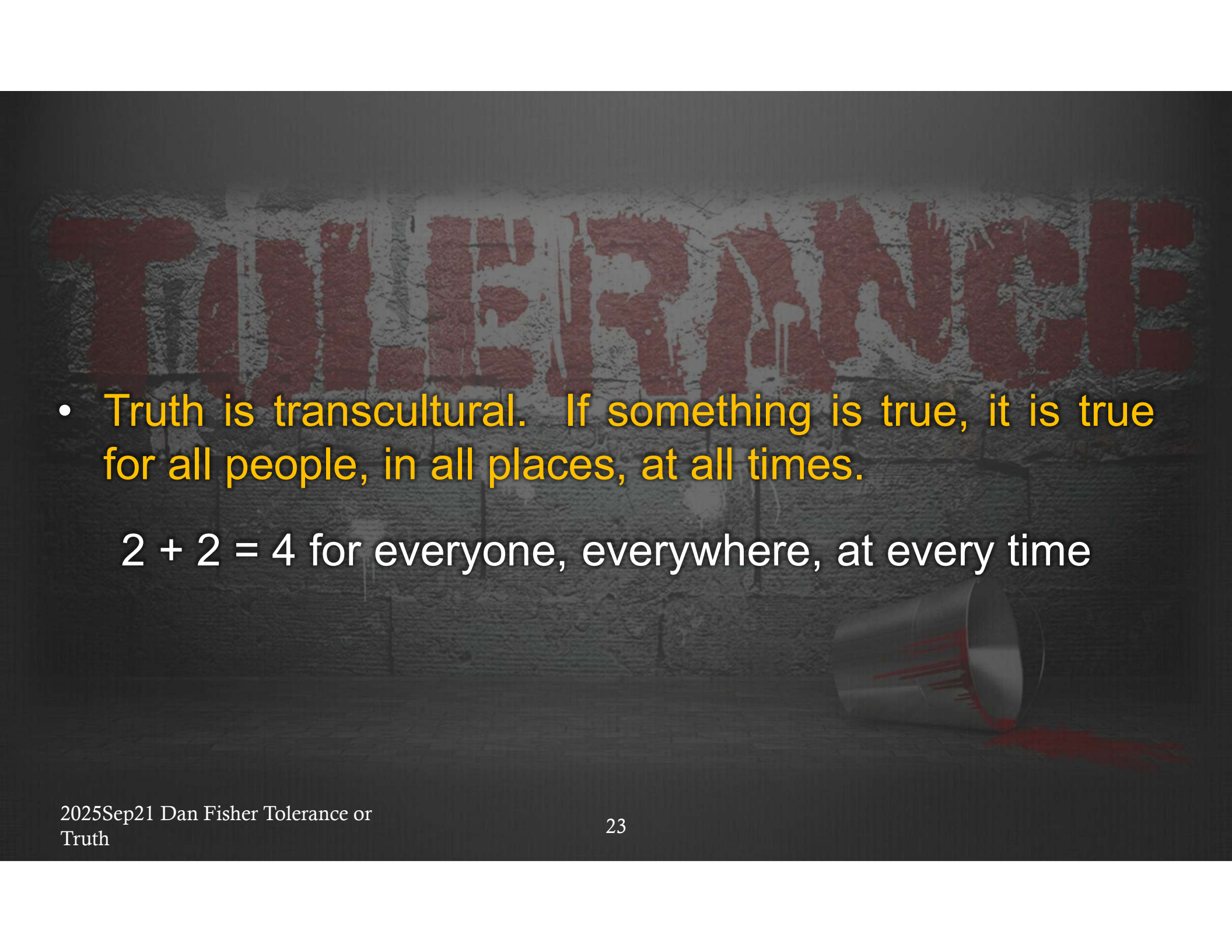
- 
- All truth claims are absolute, narrow, and exclusive & therefore exclude their opposites.

If H [humanism] is true, then anything opposed to H is false.

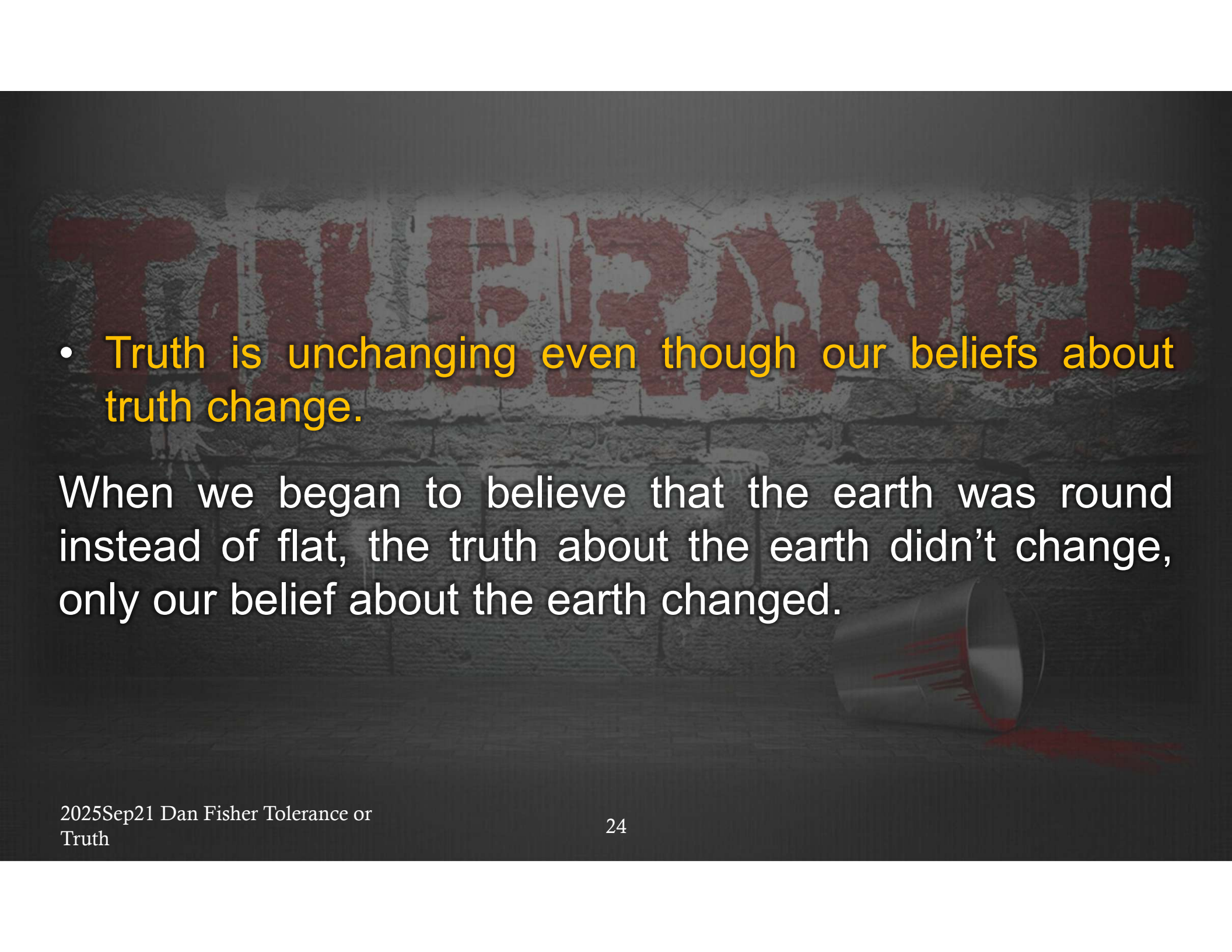
If C [Christianity] is true, then anything opposed to C is false.

- 
- Truth is discovered, not invented; it exists independent of anyone's knowledge of it.

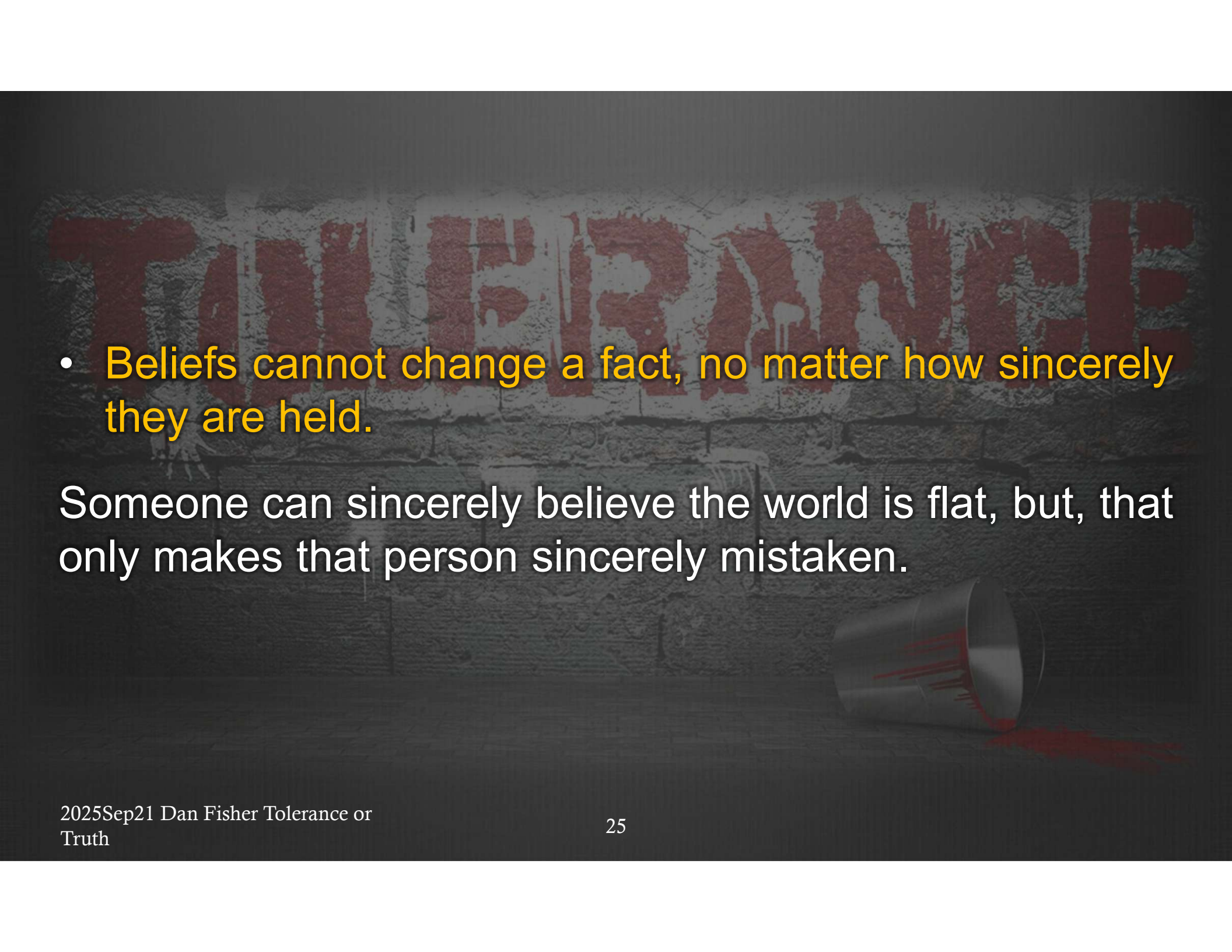
Gravity existed prior to Newton — Newton just discovered it.

- 
- Truth is transcultural. If something is true, it is true for all people, in all places, at all times.

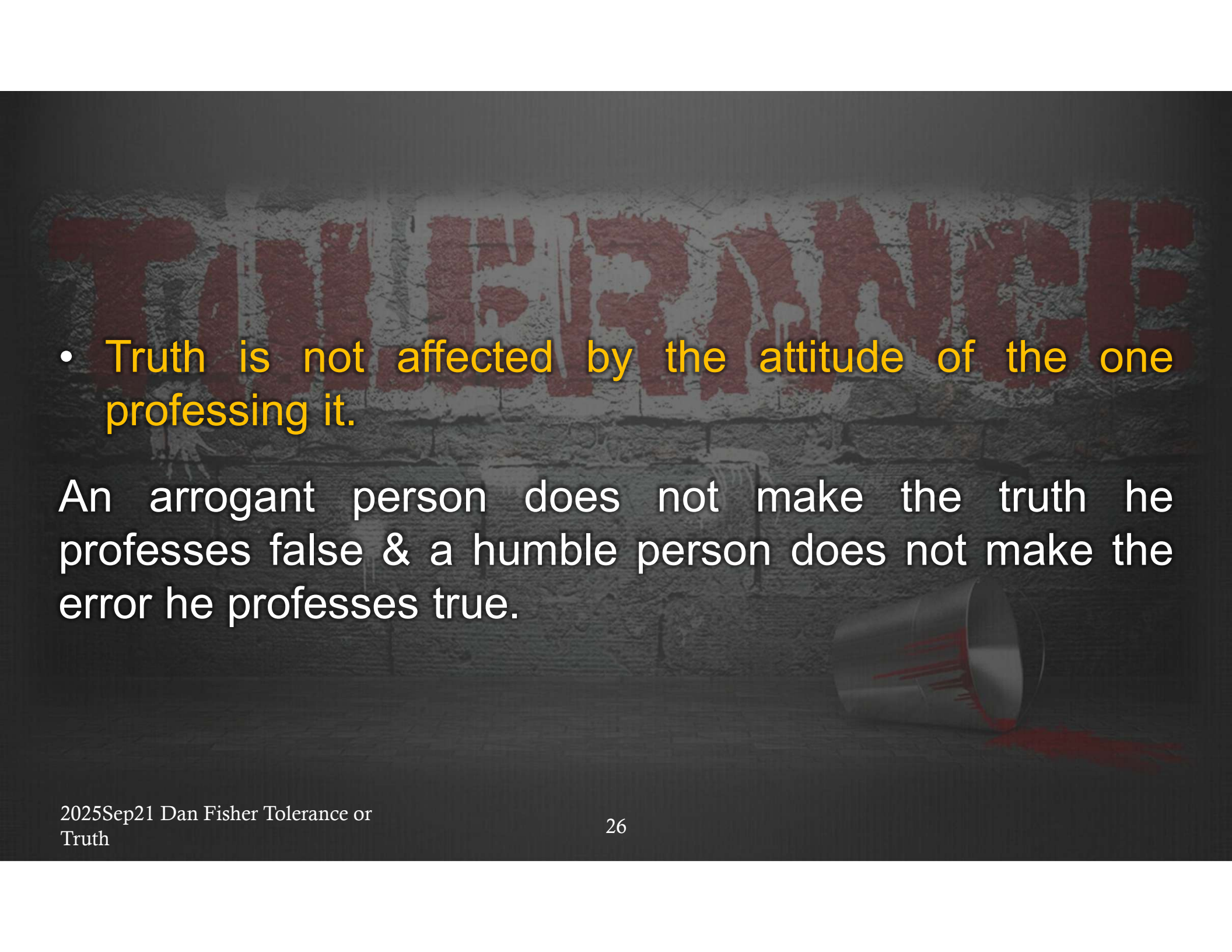
$2 + 2 = 4$ for everyone, everywhere, at every time

- 
- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change.

When we began to believe that the earth was round instead of flat, the truth about the earth didn't change, only our belief about the earth changed.

- 
- Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held.

Someone can sincerely believe the world is flat, but, that only makes that person sincerely mistaken.

- 
- Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it.

An arrogant person does not make the truth he professes false & a humble person does not make the error he professes true.

TOLERANCE

- Truths that may appear to be relative are really absolute.

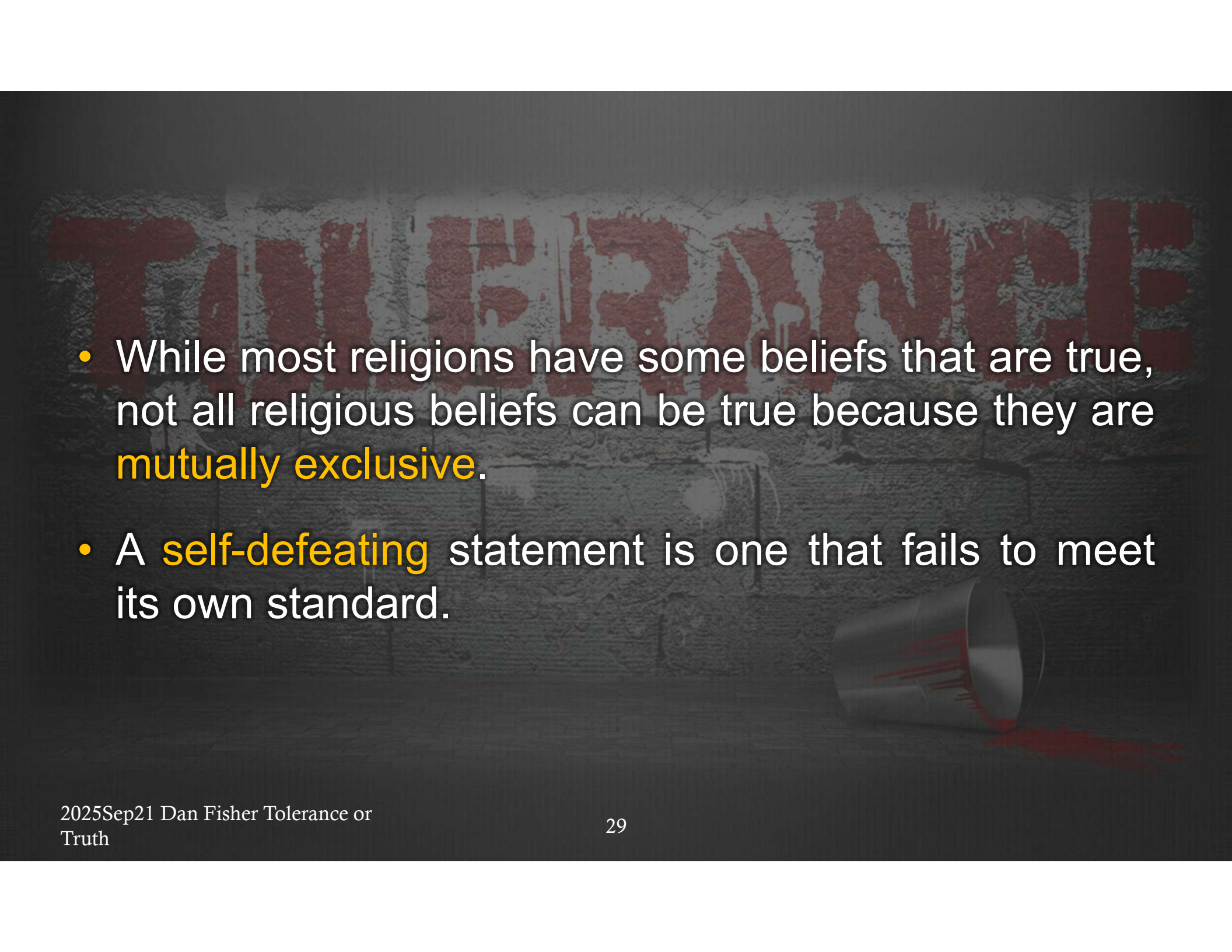
I, Dan Fisher, felt cold on November 20, 2008)

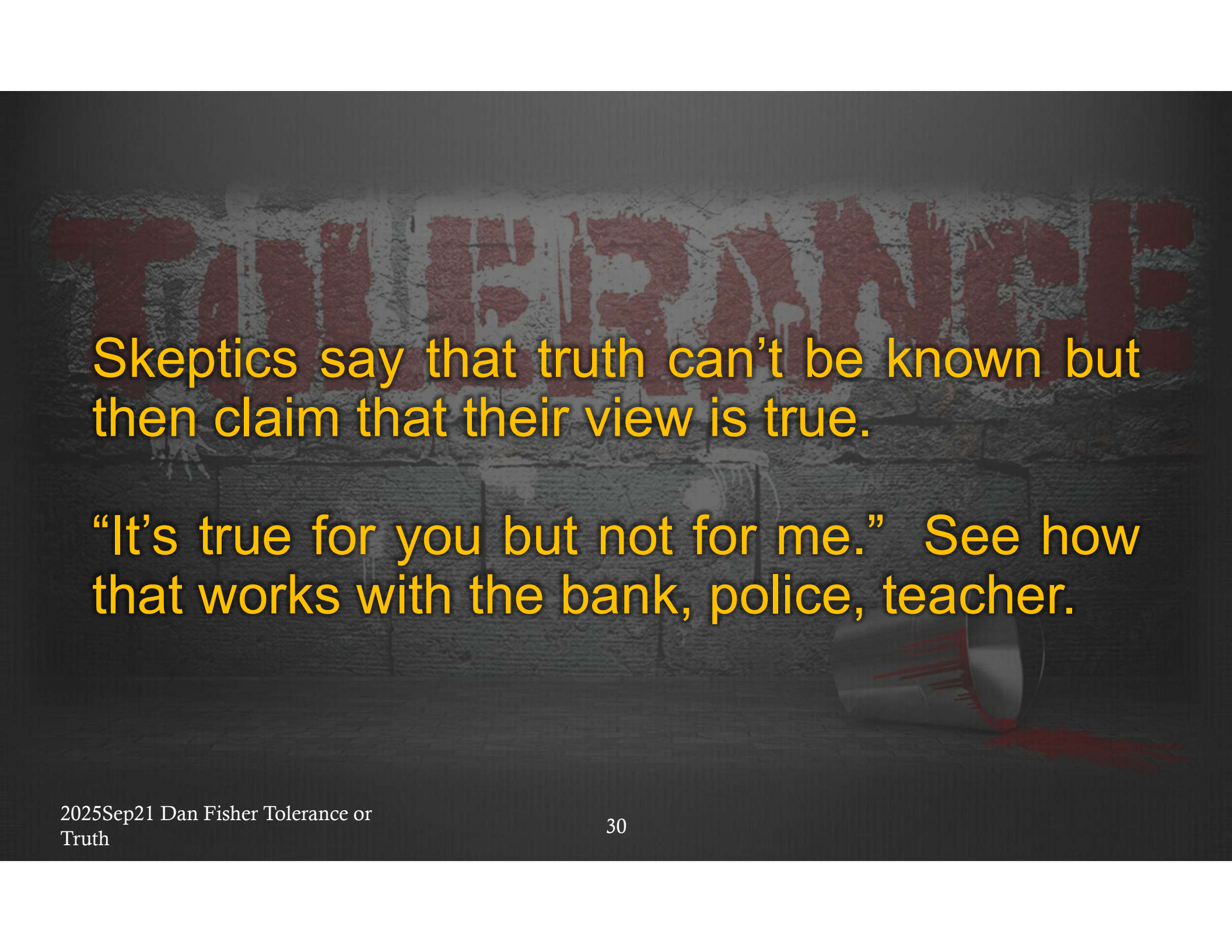


TOLERANCE

6. Contrary beliefs are possible but
contrary truths are not possible.



- 
- While most religions have some beliefs that are true, not all religious beliefs can be true because they are **mutually exclusive**.
 - A **self-defeating** statement is one that fails to meet its own standard.



Skeptics say that truth can't be known but then claim that their view is true.

“It's true for you but not for me.” See how that works with the bank, police, teacher.

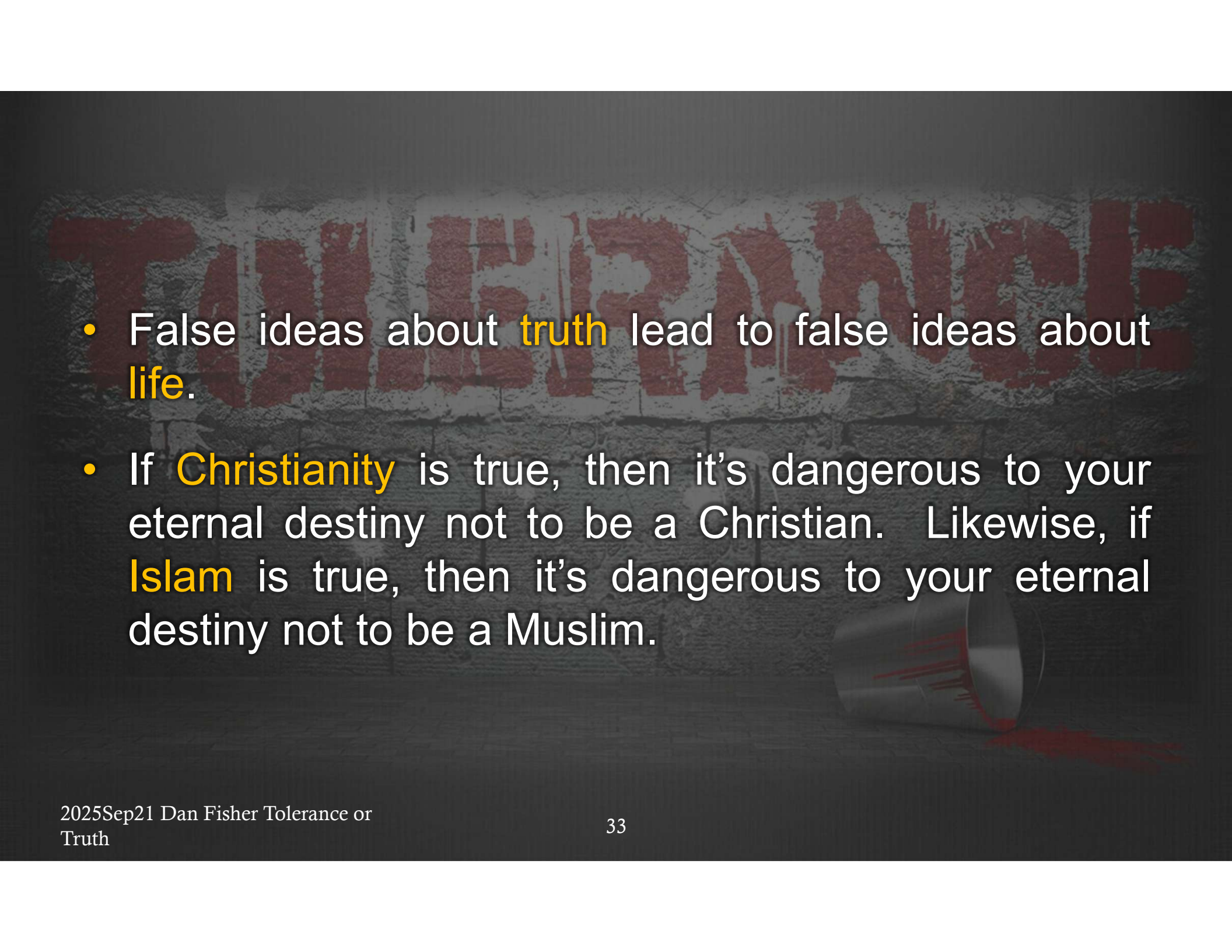
TOLERANCE

7. We can believe everything is true,
but we cannot make everything true.





8. Ideas have consequences:

- 
- False ideas about **truth** lead to false ideas about **life**.
 - If **Christianity** is true, then it's dangerous to your eternal destiny not to be a Christian. Likewise, if **Islam** is true, then it's dangerous to your eternal destiny not to be a Muslim.