



How Do You Teach Truth

by Evangelist Dan Woltmann

To many church going people the question, “how do you teach truth?” seems to have an easy answer -- until you face opposition to it. Where do you get truth? How do you know it is the truth? Can you know all the truth? Isn't truth relative? Surveys have been taken many times asking these questions. More and more people are struggling with knowing whether or not they can know truth.

John 8:31-32, *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* The concept of knowing the truth is simple as it is stated in these two verses. If we will do what Christ commands in Scripture then we will know the truth. However, this is where the issue becomes difficult to teach. In order for someone to know the truth they must first accept that what the Bible says is truth and obey it. You can not know the truth until you accept it by faith and do it. Any discussion on truth then becomes a discussion on faith. When you deal with someone, they are going to come into the conversation with held beliefs. Some of these beliefs may be strongly held, or may be a mere guideline that they have not completely thought through. They will have ideas they will stand firm on and others they may change given a good argument. Because this goes on regularly throughout everyone's day the perception is that you cannot know the truth. If as a Bible believer you address someone with the truth they will begin to filter it through this process. Does what you are telling them go against what they see as a strongly held concept? If so, then you will not be able to convince them any differently, no matter what argument you bring.

Truth is seen as absolute only as far as it pertains to the person and the circumstances. Does what you are telling them fall under an area they have not completely thought through? Then they will begin to use their thought process to analyze and evaluate what you are saying and make a decision. Truth cannot be found in a thought process, because our minds can only make decisions based upon what we already have determined truth is. The wisest person alive cannot know all truth based upon experience; they have not experienced all truth.

As Bible believers we become frustrated many times when we give out the Truth and people do not accept it. In our mind it is as clear as can be. We cannot understand why people flock to religions that teach things that we know are not truth. What is it about those religions that attract the crowds?

There is one question that needs answering first in order to answer the previous question. Which religion is right? There are so many different religions, how do you know? Sometimes the question may be phrased, “What makes your religion any better than the others?” The average person on the street would probably list pages of religions or at least think there must be page after page after page of religions. Go to your phone book; how many pages of churches are listed? How many different categories are there? So which has the truth? It is not a difficult question to answer if you understand that you can actually narrow it down to only two.

Copyright 2010 Hold Fast Ministries All rights reserved.

Distribution of this material is expressly prohibited without written permission from Hold Fast Ministries.



There are only **two types of religions** in the world. List every one you know and then put them under one of these two categories. The first one is a **religion of doing or works**. This religion teaches that in order to better yourself or to get to what their concept of eternity is you must do these things. The list of what you are supposed to do changes from group to group but the idea is the same. The following are a few examples of religions that fall into the works group. Muslims believe that you must follow the teaching of Mohammad from the Koran. They teach that God (Allah) is angry and that they must make him happy. Even among themselves they disagree on how to do this. Buddhism teaches that you must follow the teaching of Buddha which involves daily rituals to appease the evil spirit in you. Hinduism teaches that in order to better yourself for future lives you must adhere to rituals that will benefit those ancestors who have moved on to other lives. The mystic groups, including the Native American beliefs, teaches that to know truth you must reach into your spirit to get messages from the spirits of the past to see how you should live your life today. All these religions have their own lists of do's and don'ts. They are expected to live by their lists even when the lists change from time to time.

Those are just a few of the more well known, but there are many more. Even so called "Christian" groups fall into this group. The Catholics teach that Christ's death on the cross paid for original sin, and that coming to Him will get forgiveness. However, they also teach that you must abide by the church's teachings on daily living in order to get the final blessing of heaven. There is a list of things to do in order to get favor with God. Religions that teach your works will lead you to truth make sense to most people because when they think it through they see that people who do good things should be rewarded for it. If they work hard, they deserve to reap a great reward. So the religions that tell them that they will get a great reward for doing well, cause them to feel good about themselves. Works-based religions have and will attract millions and billions of people.

The **second type of religion has to be opposite**. From the religions you have listed from your phone book find all that are left and put them in this column. If you find that you put every one that you know in the first list, let me help you with the second list. In order for a religion to be placed in the second column it must not be based upon anything we do in order to receive a reward. It cannot rely on anything that we could see as a benefit based upon what we think would be a way we could earn a reward. This religion can not see God has demanding a payment from us for His favor. This religion cannot teach that we deserve greatness in this life or the life to come based upon anything we do. This religion cannot have any teaching or tenet that one must earn salvation, favor, or any other special treatment from its religion.

Are you still having a hard time finding it in your list? When looking for this other religion you must define it. We have already eliminated any form of group that demands works or earning favor. So, how does one get favor, blessing, eternity or whatever is out there that people are searching for? I see that I am not perfect and the areas where I am lacking are a problem. I see that I cannot use all the good that I have to use to define this religion. If my bad and my good do not count, what does? The second group then must be defined by something other than me.



Church Helps

Serving Churches Serving Christ

Some may be thinking that it must be about someone other than me. You are on the right tract. Let's start with those who you know. Can you think of anyone whom you know that you can base your ultimate blessing or happiness on? You may have great parents who love you and care for you. Maybe you have a great spouse that would do anything for you. Perhaps you have a best friend that would lay down whatever they were doing to come help you. Could your eternity, blessing, or the need you feel be fulfilled in them? There is a problem with the ones you know being the ones your hope is in. They are not perfect, and no matter how much they love you, they will let you down. What happens to you one day when they die? We try not to think about it but it will happen, eventually. Also, we must understand they are looking for the same thing you are. Relying on people to make a way to meet our need is useless.

We must then turn our focus to those we don't know. Perhaps there is someone we do not know that can help us. If we do not know this person, how can we find out whether or not they can help us? Have you ever known someone who knows someone who knows someone who knows a friend who can get you free tickets to your favorite team's game. Maybe we should try this. Do you know any one who may know someone who could help? Perhaps the person they know knows someone. This could take more than a life time to track everyone down in the world in order to find someone who can help us. So we might need to eliminate as many people as possible to narrow our search. Do you know any one who is not in the same condition as you and I? If you and I are honest, that just eliminated almost everyone alive, dead, and anyone still to come.

You may be thinking that I may be wrong about there being a second religion. If there is a religion out there that does not rely on me being the answer to my problem, and there does not seem to be any one also that can help me; what is it that makes this other religion exist, or if it does, how does it work? This religion must be based on there being Someone who is perfect and alive that will be willing to do whatever it takes to make possible for us to have eternal hope. Where do we find such a person? Have you ever met a person that fits this description? There is One and only One.

The Bible tells us that Jesus said *"I am the way the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me."* Some may be saying that this is what many of these other religions are saying. Do not forget that they all say that you must follow their teaching and do as they say in order to get favor, eternal hope. Here Jesus is saying He is the way, not His teaching; He is the Truth, not just statements made; He is the Life, not what appears to have life to us. There is no way or no truth or no life outside of Him. Jesus and God the Father are One. Jesus is perfect, without sin. Jesus is truthful at all times, and Jesus is alive for all eternity. Jesus can be the only One you can turn to in this second religion for help. The question then remains is He willing to do what ever it takes to give to you this hope? The answer is yes. II Peter 3:9 states, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* John 3:16 proclaims, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."*



Church Helps

Serving Churches Serving Christ

Do you want to rely on what you can do for yourself or what Jesus has done? The choice is between two religions. Which one has the truth? Is it true that we must earn our way to happiness, salvation, eternity, hope, blessings, and favor? Is it true that all of this comes from Jesus alone? How do we know the truth? Many will say show me the truth then I will believe. But truth is a state of being that cannot be seen with physical eyes. Truth must first be believed. If you believe that salvation comes from yourself then you will seek out one of these other groups to find your answer. If you believe that what Jesus said is the truth then you will seek him. But belief must come first. Just ask yourself then, will believing in myself help me get to my goal? Has it worked so far? Do you know of anyone who it has worked for? Do you know anyone who has reached the ultimate goal by doing a particular list of do's and don'ts?

Believing in Jesus and what He says is the truth, is this enough? Do you know anyone who's trusting in Jesus has changed their life and demonstrated peace, joy and contentment? In order to know the truth it must be accepted by faith. So how do you teach truth if truth can only come by faith? We need to once again go to the Scripture for the answer. The Bible says in Romans 10:17, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" In order to teach the truth we must teach the word of God. When the ones you are teaching hear the Word of God then they are on their way to truth. Romans 2:13, "*(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.*" James 1:22, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*" When they hear the Word and do it then faith comes; when faith comes, then comes the truth. We must go back to the beginning. John 8:31-32, "*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" We only know the truth by the faith we place in the Lord Jesus Christ and the obedience to his word. Matthew 28:19, "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*" This is the commandment from God.

We are commanded to teach. What are we to teach? We are to teach the whole council of God. There are many ways to go about this but the most important thing is that it all be taught. The teaching comes from two ways. We as teachers teach what we have learned and pass it on to others. II Timothy 2:2, "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*" But the ultimate teaching comes from the Holy Spirit, when the Word of God is presented. John 14:26, "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*" Our job is to present the Word of God and let the Holy Spirit of God work in lives to teach us the truth. Keep in mind the verse in Titus that keeps us in line on what is important to teach. Titus 3:9, "*But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.*"

6/2005