

What Is Truth?

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Pontius Pilate posed that three-word question to Jesus before His crucifixion. Pilate didn't wait around for the answer. Recently a friend asked what my core purpose is, and I replied, "I highlight truth and talent." Her response was the same as Pilate's, "What is truth?" Unlike Pilate, she stayed for the answer. That very morning I'd been reading John 18:37-38, and so I handed her my Bible and asked her to read it as well:

Pilate therefore said unto him, "Art thou a king then?"

Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

Pilate said unto him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, "I find in him no fault at all."

I love Christ's statement: "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness unto the truth." I read that and thought, *Wow, that's why I'm here too! I'm on this planet to bear witness of the truth!* But, what is truth? Honestly, I'd never stopped to define it. Please come along with me as we search for the answer. Hopefully, we'll find some insights together.

Jesus Christ is the Truth

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

All truth leads to Jesus Christ. He is the embodiment and source of it all. What He told Pilate is true: **Every one who is of the truth hears His voice.** Truth resonates with truth and eventually leads the receptive human heart to the Source of all truth.

Perhaps this is why I'm drawn to people who hold pieces of truth within them. I feel compelled to draw it out of them further, to highlight it, and to lift it up for all to see. These souls who carry messages of truth within them harbor the Light of Christ. Sometimes they do not even realize they carry it. They may not even know Him yet. But His light is there, resonating within their souls at a level they are ready to embrace and understand. With a little nurturing, with a little encouragement, truth leads to more truth. Because of the truth within them, they and others will eventually hear His voice and receive a fullness of joy that only He can bring.

Truth Liberates

Jesus told His disciples, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Truth lifts burdens; it lightens loads, and brings clarity. The same could be said of the Savior of mankind. Is there any burden too heavy for Him? Any sin too black for Him to wash away?

Acting On Truth Leads to Enlightenment

Many times we think of truth as fact or knowledge. But according to Jesus, it is much more. He taught:

"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:20-21).

Truth is something you DO! As you act upon truth, it leads you to light -- illumination, clarity, and understanding. These might be occasional moments of epiphany or a state of enlightenment.

What Does Truth Taste Like to You?

A friend and I were discussing truth. He sees it as a difficult thing you look at in order to "face facts." No matter how painful or hard it might be to look at, he wants to "face the truth." For him, truth is a bitter medicine that one must swallow in order to be healed. His perception of truth startled me a little. I had never thought of it in this way. In fact, truth tastes sweet to me. It's filled with light, joy, happiness, and divine moments of clarity and vision. Truth is one of the most exquisite delicacies placed before the human heart and mind. My heart thrills to feast at a banquet of truth. What does truth taste like to you?

Truth Sanctifies

In the Savior's great intercessory prayer, he pled with the Father concerning His disciples,

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

I looked up the word "sanctify" on dictionary.reference.com and it gave several definitions. As you read these, think of Christ as the personification of truth and you'll receive great insights into His role in our lives:

- **to make holy; set apart as sacred; consecrate.**
Truth (Christ) makes you holy.
- **to purify or free from sin: Sanctify your hearts.**
Truth (Christ) frees you from sin.
- **to impart religious sanction to; render legitimate or binding; to sanctify a vow.** Truth (Christ) renders you legitimate (or acceptable) in the eyes of God. Truth (Christ) binds you to your Father in Heaven.
- **to entitle to reverence or respect.**
Truth (Christ) entitles even you, a lowly human, to be revered and respected.
- **to make productive or conducive to spiritual blessing.**
Truth (Christ) makes you productive and worthy of spiritual blessings.

I've heard it said that "Truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come." Truth is not man made. It is not perceptions. It is not opinion. Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but ultimate truth is not. It is not relative. Truth is an anchor to the soul. It is the North Star. It is something you can count on through thick and thin. Truth often requires believing in something you cannot see, but can only feel. The journey to truth may be a difficult one, but the flavor of truth is delicious, sweet, and liberating.

I bear witness that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He lives! He loves you beyond measure! You are of infinite worth to Him. He died for you that you might live again beyond the grave. If you are not among His disciples, I urge you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets testified, who came into the world as a lowly babe in a manger, died for your sins, and rose again. I know He lives and because He does, you can too!

If you are one of His disciples, let's stand a little taller and lift His truth a little higher. It shines resplendent in the world -- a light shining in the darkness, and the darkness comprehends it not. So many times it's encased within human hearts that have not discovered His presence yet. My prayer is that we may help set it free by fostering the good, beautiful and true in those around us.