

# HOLDING ABSOLUTE TRUTH IN AN ANTI-TRUTH CULTURE

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In today's world, the truth has become relative. There is no singular truth. no absolutes. everyone should live their own personal truth. these ideas are Even infiltrating the church. But, scripture says Jesus is truth and Satan is the father of lies. Mankind with freewill can choose to walk in Truth or live by lies. How do we help young people make sure their truth corresponds to Biblical Truth? Why is it important that we do? Because, I believe, those that ground their lives in God's truth; will find themselves the recipient of God's amazing faithfulness in their life.

## INTRODUCTION

### Society says, Truth is:

1. Absolute — 35%
2. Relative — 44%
3. Never thought about it — 21%

### Postmodern Ideals

1. All ideas are of equal value and merit.
2. Truth and reality are individually shaped (truth is in us).  
*"If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true." [John 5:31 ESV]*
3. Highest ideals are Individualism and Relativism.  
*Worse than serving idols is to follow dictates of one's heart. (Jer. 16:10-12)*
4. Universal truth claims cause conflict.

### Relativism is Influencing the Church

1. 28% agree that "It doesn't matter what name people pray to. All people pray to the same God."
2. 23% agree "What is morally right and wrong depends on what an individual believes."
3. 24% make moral choices based on what feels right or will make the most people happy.

## “WHAT IS TRUTH?”

*“Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to my voice. Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” [John 18:33, 37]*

*Jesus says, “I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life.” [John 14:6, ESV]*

### 1. Culture Crucifies Truth

If there is no such things as absolute truth, then I do not have to conform to God’s truth.

### 2. The Bible warns us that people will wander away from truth

*“... and they will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” [II Timothy 4:4]*

*“They exchanged a truth for a lie.” [Romans 1:25]*

## RELATIVE TRUTH VS. ABSOLUTE TRUTH

Relative Truth	Absolute Truth
Truth is relative to the individual, society or historical context	Truth does not change regardless of what you think, hope or feel about it.
Truth is created based on personal preference	Truth exists and is based on reality
Truth is Created	Truth is Discovered
Truth is ‘inside’ us	Truth is ‘outside’ us

### Absolute Truth

1. Truth is that which based in reality. (Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, does not go away.)

2. If two realities contradict each other, they both cannot be true.
3. “There is a God” is either true or false, it cannot be both.

## WHY THE TRUTH MATTERS

### “The Truth will set you free.” [John 8:32]

1. If the truth will set you free; then a lie will enslave you.
2. Truth is a point of reference for making sense of the world.
  - a. Absolute Truth gives us something concrete and unchangeable to anchor our life on.
  - b. Relative Truth based on personal preference is unreliable because preferences are always changing.

### Consequences of a Relative Truth Culture

1. Live with constant anxiety  
*10% of teens diagnosed with anxiety disorder.*
2. Have bondage in their lives.  
*8% of teens diagnosed with substance addiction.*
3. Have destructive behavior.  
*9% of teens have records for behavior issues.*

## CULTURAL LIES

*“He [Devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” [John 8:44]*

1. The lie that pornography is a victimless crime has led to sex addiction, sex slavery and abusive relationships.
2. The lie that there are many pathways to heaven has led to people to stop sharing their faith with their neighbors or friends.
3. The lie that I can be a disciple of Christ without going to church has led to a mass exodus of people from the faith.
4. The lie "It's my body" has led to 50 million aborted babies in the United States.
5. The lie that if "If you don't agree with me then you are against me." (Politics) has causes people to treat neighbors like enemies and act out aggressively and violently in the streets.
6. Lies about 'value' cause students to pursue success in order to prove their significance have led to depression and suicide.
  - *Christian Variation: I need to do something extraordinary for God.* or "Make money to grow the kingdom of God."
  - *Hosea 6:6 - For I desire faithful love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

## BELIEVER'S MANDATE IN AN ANTI-TRUTH CULTURE

### 1. Help Young People Discover THE Truth; not THEIR Truth.

*"The word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." [Psalm 119:105]*

- True is true even if no one knows it.
- Even if no one admits it
- Even if no one agrees what it is
- Even if no one follows it
- Even if no one, but God grasps it fully

### 2. Teach the Bible as Whole Truth not just Religious Truth.

*"The Lord will give you understanding in everything." [II Timothy 2:7]*

*O God, everything around us, even that which looks so good, has a limit to its perfection, but not your word. Your word is limitless in its perfection." [Psalm 119:96]*

- The Bible offers us the truth not just about how to receive eternal life, but offers us guidance on how we should live out everyday lives.

- The Bible gives us truth not just about how to be a good person, but to help us navigate an accelerated, complex culture.

### 3. Encourage Young People to Increase Spiritual Inputs

*“My friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise; things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable.” [Philippians 4:8]*

- Screens Disciple: Pop culture and social media are the new disciplers.
- A young Christian will spend 10x more hours with culturally driven content than spiritual content.
- Resilient disciples (people who maintained their faith through college and well into their adult years) report not only less over-all screen time, but also 6x more Christian content than the average Christian.

### 4. Be a Truth Speaker

*“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” [2 Corinthians 10:5]*  
*He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. [Titus 1:9]*

*Prophet Daniel to Pagan King Nebuchadnezzar [Daniel 4:27]*

- God’s truth is not reserved for believers only.
- God’s truth is relevant both inside the church and outside the church.

*“They left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to **suffer dishonor** for the name [of Jesus].” [Acts 5:41, ESV]*

- Don’t withhold truth to avoid personal suffering.
- Don’t withhold truth to preserve reputation.

### 5. Speak Truth in Love

*“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body.” [Ephesians 4:15]*

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” [Colossians 4:6]*

- Arrogance: Truth without Relationship
- Apathy: Relationship without Truth
- Our truth position is not passive or aggressive, but assertive.

## **6. Do not Neglect the Spirit of Truth**

*“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” [John 16:12-13]*

## **7. Examine Regularly if your Life is Fully Shaped by Biblical Truth.**

*“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” [2 Corinthians 13:5]*

# **CONCLUSION**

Culture is always changing; Truth never changes [Hebrews 13:8; I Peter 1:25].

## **Being Faithful**

Even when you feel that you are making no difference in the world... that you are failing to bring Christian truth to culture, to your youth, or to your situation, remember this: Success is not the criteria. Faithfulness is.

## **Recognize the Amazing Attractiveness of God’s Truth.**

God’s truth is beautiful and persuasive on its own merits. It calls to our consciences and if we are willing, convinces us to accept it. I would rather repel people with the truth of the gospel than lead them astray with beautifully crafted lies. Because we can trust in truth’s innate power, we can wait for truth to act on others’ consciences. We can have confidence that God’s truth placed side by side with error is beautiful and valid, whether others agree or not.

## **Together we can show young people how God’s truth is infinitely better than culture’s lies.**

*“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of God stands forever.” [I Peter 1:25]*