



Sermon Discussion Questions
02-25-2024

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Series: Fake News
Week 2: There is No Truth!

1. ICE BREAKER: Do you (or did you ever) receive a newspaper? If so, what was your favorite section of the newspaper and why?
2. This week, we are not diving into a passage of Scripture, but rather using a single verse to frame our series. Read Matthew 22:37:

"Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

How do you love God with your heart? With your soul? With your mind? Which of these comes most naturally to you? What is most difficult?

3. Pastor Dale shared a brief historical overview of how we have arrived at this place in culture where we are asking the question, as Pilate did, "What is truth?" Many historians trace this movement back to the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), leading to the Peace of Westphalia and the birth of the secular state, which declared that governments should not be affiliated with a certain religious tradition.

Why do you think tolerance rose in value when the secular state was born? Some say that the secular state was actually a result of the "church not being the church." Why is that? What did Pastor Dale mean when he said, "Tolerance and pluralism are great servants, but they are horrible masters"?

4. It is common within culture now to hear people say, "There is no absolute truth." This statement, in and of itself, is actually an absolute truth statement! However, no one actually lives this way. There are some truths that we, as a society, believe and accept.

Give some non-religious examples of absolute truths that are generally accepted within our society. (Think, for example, of morality). What would happen to our society and government if there actually were no absolute truth?

5. Jesus clearly believed in truth. In John 8:32, He said, "*Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

What do you think the truth is that Jesus is referring to here? How does truth set us free? How are we able to know the truth?

6. Truth can be defined as reality, or that which corresponds with reality. Lies are unreality, or that which corresponds with unreality. Dallas Willard once wrote, "Our ideas are our assumptions about reality."

Talk about lies in your life that you have believed before. Why do we sometimes choose to believe lies, even if we might know they are untrue? What does the Dallas Willard quote mean to you?

7. As humans, we are constantly trying to make sense of our lives. We all develop certain ways of living in and viewing the world, such as mental maps, worldview, and faith.

Discuss and define what is meant by mental maps, worldview and faith. Mental maps and worldviews can be helpful to us; they are not in opposition to faith. Discuss the relationship between these three. What influence can we have over our mental maps and our worldviews?

8. We all live somewhere in the middle space between lies and truth, and have a choice of which direction we are choosing to move.

What are some practical ways that we can move toward truth? How do you identify lies in your life? What do you do in order to replace them with truth? How does truth form us in the image of Christ, while lies deform us?

9. PRACTICE: Just as we did last week, with your group, pray Colossians 2:8. Ask God to open your minds and point out areas where you may be missing the truth. Ask Him specifically to point out lies you may be believing. Pray that God would teach you to move towards truth.