

A photograph of a sign that says "TRUTH" in large, white, capital letters. The sign is silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sun is positioned directly behind the sign, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are some dark silhouettes of plants and a road leading towards the sign.

“I Want the Truth!”

**John 17:17 - “Sanctify them by
Your truth. Your word is truth.”**

“I Want the Truth!”

- 2012 Gallup Poll asking Americans to rank professions by honesty and ethics, car salesmen came in last. Nurses were rated the most honest profession.
- The top 10 most honest professions are: nurses, pharmacists, doctors, engineers, dentists, police officers, professors, clergy, psychiatrists, and chiropractors.
- The bottom 10 professions are: car salespeople, members of Congress, advertising people, stockbrokers, HMO managers, Senators, insurance salespeople, lawyers, State Governors, and business executives.

“I Want the Truth!”

- God places a premium on truth
 - Prov. 23:23 - “Buy the truth, and do not sell it”
- He despises anything less
 - Prov. 6:16-19 - “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”
- He requires truthfulness in every relationship

Social Truthfulness: Honesty With Others

- God demands that we be truthful with others
 - Rom. 12:17 - “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men”
 - Col. 3:9 - “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds”

Social Truthfulness: Honesty With Others

- “Situation Ethics: The New Morality” by Joseph Fletcher - “Is adultery wrong? One can only respond, ‘I don’t know. Maybe.’”
- The Reformer - “We need to teach our children to lie.”
- The Examiner - “Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret.”
- “The Day America Told The Truth” by James Patterson & Peter Kim - “We have become a nation of liars. 91% of Americans admit to lying regularly.”

Social Truthfulness: Honesty With Others

- Lying to others is always a sin and always wrong
 - Rom. 3:8 - “And why not say, Let us do evil that good may come? --as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say.”
 - Eph. 4:25 - “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

Biblical Truthfulness: Honesty Toward God And His Word

- Titus 2:7 - “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility”
- 2Cor. 2:17 - “For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”
- Gen. 3:2-4 - “And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die.”

Biblical Truthfulness: Honesty Toward God And His Word

- 2Peter 3:3-5 - “knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water”
- Psalm 50:21 - “These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes”

Biblical Truthfulness: Honesty Toward God And His Word

- To assert something as true when we do not know whether it is true or not is a form of dishonesty
- The solution
 - Acts 17:11 - “These 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.”

Inward Truthfulness: Honesty With Self

- The most dangerous form of lying is lying to ourselves.
 - We can't successfully lie to God
 - The external effects of lying to others is limited to this world
 - But effective lying to ourselves can lock us into eternal condemnation from the moment we deceive ourselves

Inward Truthfulness: Honesty With Self

- How we lie to ourselves without noticing it happening
- Inflated opinion of self
 - Gal. 6:3 - “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”
 - Rom. 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

Inward Truthfulness: Honesty With Self

- How we lie to ourselves without noticing it happening
- Inflated opinion of self
 - 1Cor. 8:2 - “And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.”
 - 2Cor. 3:5 - “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God”

Inward Truthfulness: Honesty With Self

- How we lie to ourselves without noticing it happening
- Undisciplined tongue
 - James 1:26 - “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”
 - James 3:8 - “But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

Inward Truthfulness: Honesty With Self

- How we lie to ourselves without noticing it happening
- Lazy hearing
 - James 1:22 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
 - James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

“I Want the Truth!”

- God expects us to be lovers of truth
 - Prov. 3:3 - “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart”
 - 2Thes. 2:10 - “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

“I Want the Truth!”

- Truth is entwined throughout our fellowship with God and His children
 - 2John 1-3 - “The elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, 2 because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”

“I Want the Truth!”

- Truth is entwined throughout our fellowship with God and His children
 - Psalm 15:1-2 - “LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart”