

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 8

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God” John 17:3
“For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me” John 17:8
“Sanctify them in the truth, your Word is truth” John 17:17

Key Thought: God has given us TRUE words!

Our culture and much of the world has embraced a very unsettling belief system that has been growing and maturing for several decades. It's the belief that truth is not an objective reality outside of ourselves that applies to all people, at all times, and in all places, but rather a subjective reality created by each person based on our own personal experience and preference. What is true and right has no real substance beyond ourselves, and for anyone to try and convince you to change to another truth is an act of hatred, prejudice, and intolerance. This belief system is creating quite an environment of chaos and confusion.

The existence of God and His spoken, written, and incarnate Word do not allow for such an ambiguous belief system. In fact, a belief system that denies truth outside of ourselves is the lie of all lies. According to Jesus in John 17:3, eternal life is knowing that God is the one and “only **true God.**” In John 17:8 Jesus says that His disciples had, “come to **know in truth** that (He) came from (God).” Finally, Jesus said in John 17:17 that God would sanctify **His disciples, “in the truth”** and that, “**(God’s) Word is truth.**” Jesus seemed to think that truth existed outside of ourselves and could be known. And most astonishingly (and today . . . most controversially), **truth could be found in Him!**

Jesus' words clearly do not support a belief that truth is what we make it or something we can mold or shape into an image that we have invented. Rather, truth is a permanent unchanging reality established by God that is true for all people, in all times, and in all places. Jesus said in John 8:31-32, “if you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**” By believing and conforming our lives to the truth of Jesus Christ and His words we are set free. If we don't, we are believing a lie and we will remain slaves to our sin.

Jesus goes even further in John 14:6 saying, “I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Relating with God requires going through the person of Jesus Christ. No one enters into a relationship with God unless they believe the truth about who Jesus is and what He has done. While the world makes every effort to try and deny the truth about Jesus Christ, those who genuinely seek a relationship with God will find it in Him.

In John 18:37-38 in a conversation with Pilate about whether He was the King of the Jews, Jesus said, “for this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—**to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.**” Pilate’s response to Jesus’ statement was, “what is truth?”

Based on Pilate’s response, he seems interested . . . but unconvinced. How about you? Are you seeking the truth but aren’t satisfied with the answer you find within yourself? Maybe it’s time you became convinced that God and His Word are true and that you can have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ!

Questions to Ponder

1. Why do you think the world has such a hard time believing that God and His Word are the standard of truth?
2. How would you answer Pilate’s question, “what is true?”
3. What does it mean to have a true relationship with God?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Thank God for establishing truth for all people, at all times, and in all places.
2. Pray and ask God to help you become more and more convinced of the truth about who He is and what He has done .

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?