

## 315 Faith Discipleship: "TRUTH": *What You Believe & Why*

Feb. 5th 40-45 minutes

**Pray/Open:** 5 minutes

**Table Discussion:** Each person must tell the others 4 things about themselves, 3 of them will be false while 1 will be true. After each person tells their 4 "things", the others must agree and pick the one they think is true.

**(Question):**

- Who was the hardest to guess their "true" statement?
- What are things that gave it away? How did you determine what was true?

**Key Truth:** - (on screen) 2 Minutes

What are we following? What is shaping our opinions, our behavior, and the way we live? What are we devoting our lives & our eternity to?

Answering these questions and any question that comes to you in life is about one thing; determining what is "True".

If we know there was (& still is) a Jesus who came, lived, and died - who claimed and proved Himself to be the Son of God - then all this stuff on Sin & Salvation is stuff we should really pay attention to, Yes?

This same Jesus (Son of God) & all the Apostles (who got all their info from God) tell us all that stuff in Scripture (Old Testament) is true and actually happened. This stuff is true. God Himself made sure people saw, knew, & were told this stuff was true.

So... When we are deciding how to answer questions - When we are developing our Worldview - We want to go with **Truth**.

Let's Look at "Truth" for a bit...

**Jesus, Pilate, & Truth** - (on screen) any image of "Ecce Homo" will work. If possible have an image that be full screen. 8 minutes

- One of the best paintings ever. This is "Ecce Homo" or "Behold the Man" by Antonio Ciseri. This painting is of Pilate addressing the crowd before handing over Jesus to be crucified.
- Do you recall the conversation between Pilate and Jesus? (John 18:28-40)

**33** Therefore Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "You are the King of the Jews?" **34** Jesus answered, "Are you saying this [e]on your own, or did others tell you about Me?" **35** Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me; what have You done?" **36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My

kingdom is not [f]of this realm.” **37** Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this *purpose* I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” **38** Pilate \*said to Him, “What is truth?”



**Video** - 2 minutes [Jesus and Pilate Talk “Gospel of John Movie](#) Time Code: 2:24:24 - 2:27:10

- We read that immediately after this Pilate turns and leaves to address the crowd that he sees nothing wrong with Jesus and will not condemn Him, but due to Jewish custom they can release a prisoner, should it be Jesus or Barabus which we know they chose Barabbas, leading to Christ being crucified.
- Pilate had the Son of God, the Messiah, Christ Jesus just standing there in front of him. In that moment, He had exclusive access to the omniscience of God...& what did he do?...apparently, scoffs, turns, and leaves. Jesus, God in Flesh. Who is the way the truth and the life (John 14:6) ....and Pilate walks out the door.
- It is very easy to judge Pilate here. Sometimes I’m reading (or listening to) the Bible and I find myself heckling characters. “Way to go Peter!...real smooth” or “Samson, you’re killing me, come man - wise up!” BUT - We are these same folks, we do the same crazy mistakes. I’ve often wondered if the Lord doesn’t sometimes think,  
***“Wow. I knew Eric was going to do that and even I can’t believe he actually thought that would work!”***

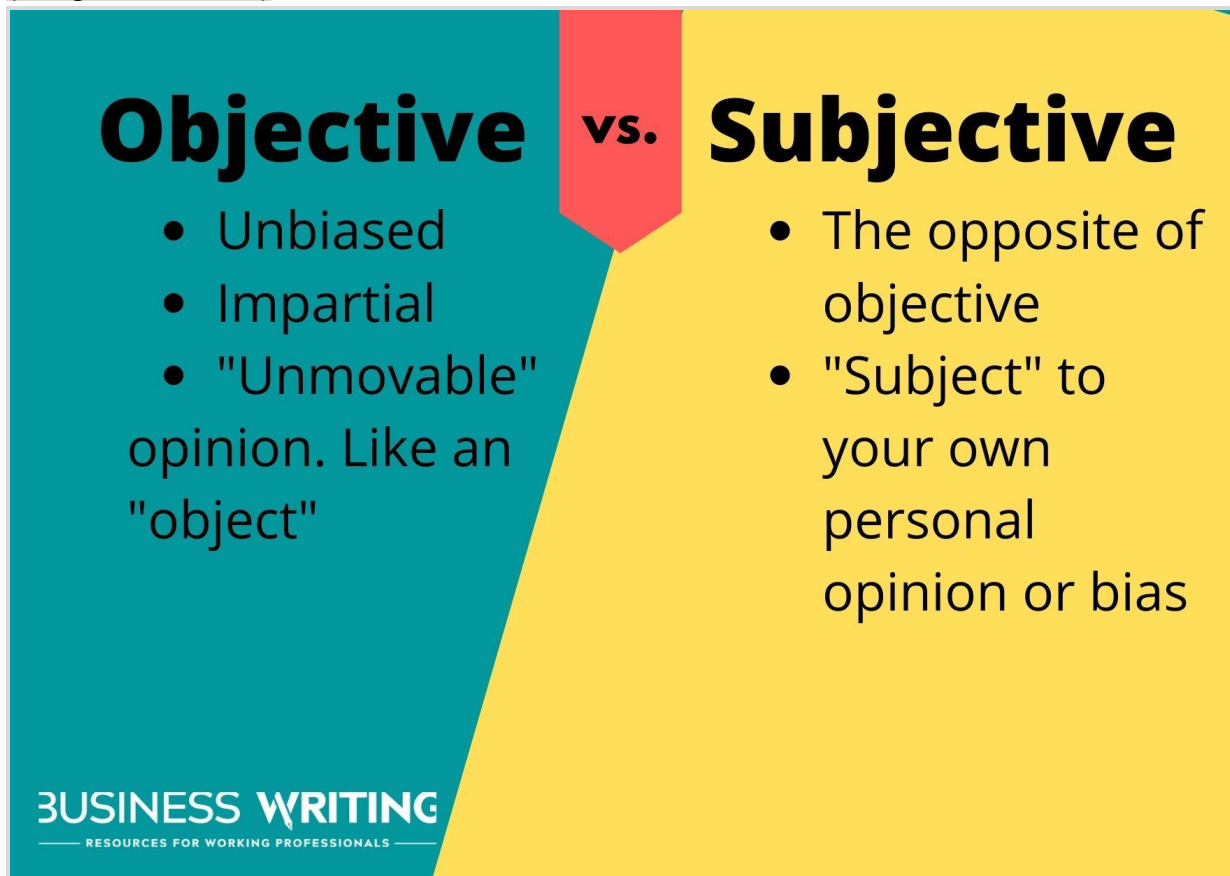
Pilate had Christ standing there face to face, in the flesh, by themselves & took absolutely NO advantage of it. We may not have Christ in person - but we have His living, breathing WORD (hold up a Bible) and we can talk to him all the time.

- When we fail to spend any time with the Bible or fail to pray (Not out of obligation) but out of desire to know Him more - When we fail to do that - It's like Pilate, having the opportunity to dwell in God's truth and saying, "nah, I'm good".

**Truth:** \_\_\_\_\_

As Brian told us last week, we constantly deal with subjective and objective realities in our day to day life. Some things are opinions &/or feelings, while others are fact, true. The world feels most comfortable with most things being subjective, "you live your truth" & "To Each their Own".

(Image on Screen)



**Truth & Grey Areas - 15 minutes**

**Video** [Is there Absolute Truth?](#) Stop at 2:04

- He makes a great point right at the beginning with the color of the microphone. The "Truth" can't be different. The microphone was black. Regardless of how badly someone may want it to be red or blue...it was black. To state otherwise is "wrong".

- This sounds Crazy - this is obvious stuff, right? Hold one though, we now live in a world where lots of things have become very subjective. We live in a very prominent “This is my Truth” culture. We need to understand that is “your” truth doesn’t line up with “THE” truth...then you’re wrong.

The whole “can’t we both be right” argument is one that seems to be fair right? Compromise is a good thing...you want pizza, but I want tacos - no big deal we each order our own. This only works for things that are subjective. Example: You and I are in an airplane that is going down. We have parachutes, but we come upon an impasse. You see, I have decided that in my reality the plane is fine. “My Truth” is that this plane is not crashing. See the issue here? Doesn’t matter what I “want” or “feel” or “think” - Reality is not affected by this. Reality is just that, Real. Both of us can’t be right. One of us must be, dare I say it...“WRONG”. How do we know which one it is? It’s the one resting in the truth.

**(Question:)** - (on screen)

What is Grey Area? What does it mean? (see what they will say)

Many things in life are Black & White, meaning there is a clear distinction between one or another. Other things are not quite as easy to determine. We usually call this sort of thing as being in the “Grey Area”, right? It’s not Black nor is it White. Is it wrong? or Is it right? Therein lies the question. Grey Area stuff can be hard. Let’s look at some (of what we might normally think of) Black and White topics & see how quickly they can creep into that “unsure” or “Grey area”.

**Table Discussions:** We’re going to put up some Grey Area Topics. The trick here is that some of these may actually NOT be “Grey” area at all. You have to put on your deductive reasoning skills hat on and figure out what your table’s position on each will be. Is this wrong (sinful)? Is this Ok? Or is this “Grey”

(on Screen one at a time)

- Skipping Church for another event (vacation, sporting event, bad mood, etc)
- Cursing / Foul Language
- Getting a Tattoo
- Playing Violent Video Games
- Drinking Alcohol
- Betting on sporting events

“Grey Areas”—a category we might define as *actions that Scripture doesn’t clearly identify as “sinful” or “non-sinful” for all people in all places at all times.*

**A gray area . . . is any matter that is not clearly commanded, prohibited, or permitted in Scripture.**

**(Questions): 5 minutes**

What is a “standard”?

People used to wear WWJD bracelets. Everything was compared to the standard of Christ. Folks, that is what we are after - “finding our “standard”.

Is there such a thing as Right & Wrong?

- How do you know which is which?
- The “Sandwich or the Baby” Question`
- It will all come down to your “standard of truth” Where you choose to get your morality from. Is it God, yourself, or the world?

The “Absolute Standard” - The Best it can get. . .Perfection

- We can't get there. We'll never reach that one, but we can strive for it.
- What's awesome here is that Perfection is the standard for God, but we could never get there, So God made a way for us to get there anyways, through the righteousness of Christ.

What is your standard for truth?

It's not always God for a lot of folks: Science \*Culture/Society \* Conscience &/or/Self

Once this becomes God & the Bible, a lot of the questions we face are not that hard.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

- Another ways of saying this is the New Living Translation

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. - Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

**Group Discussion Example:** “My God would never send someone to Hell just because they didn't follow “your” Jesus. What would you say in reply?

- This one is good and commonly said, often in various ways, but the overall theme is common. “God wouldn't send people to Hell...” “or Why would God not let folks into Heaven...?” Stuff like that. The reply is scriptural and simple. God, doesn't send anyone to Hell. He has gone way out of His way to ensure everyone is presented with a way to be saved. The problem is people say “no”.
  - Another answer is to catch the “My God” part. Folks have a tendency to like the idea of God, but not all that goes with it...like sin, repentance, morality, & the worst - consequences. So they invent their “own” version of God. Answering this person is easy. “Their God can do whatever” “The God I follow is the one of the Bible and He says He wants nothing to do with anyone that Jesus doesn't vouch for.”

## **I Never Knew You** - Matthew 7:21-23

**21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ **23** And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

**Activity:** **10 minutes** As a table: Pick one of these topics. Once selected, half the table will believe the comment is True and defend it. The other half of the table does not believe the comment, and will argue against it. After a few minutes, we’ll switch topics and positions. Also, see if you identify any “grey area” or common ground.

- The United States faked the Moon Landing.
- A Hot Dog is actually a sandwich.
- Electric Cars are worse on the environment than gasoline vehicles.
- Living Under the Sea would be better than living in Outer Space
- People should be allowed to go barefoot wherever & whenever they please.

Discuss. Each round of several minutes. Try to do Three Rounds.

**CLOSE:** Sum all this stuff up as whether with God or Politics or choosing your next game console or phone....Think...what do you know?...Is there a truth about the subject?

**Charge:** **1 minute**

This week as you go through your days at school, time at home, all that stuff - Try to notice how often you “do & think” based on “Opinion” vs. how often you act off “Objective Truth”. When you start to look for it, you’ll be amazed at how some things you always thought were rock solid truth were just subjective opinions & vice versa.

**Prayer:** End

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