

Defending the Faith - Session 2 Notes on "Truth"

*We need to understand that logic is an important component to faith.

- Why are you a Christian? Because you just believe it's true, ...Or, do you know it is true?

Do you know the evidence that supports the Biblical account?

- Ask an Atheist: "If Christianity is proven to be true, would you believe?" – If they say No, then they are not on a Truth quest, but a happiness quest. Many Christians are too.

*Recognize self-defeating statements" that are statements that do not meet their own standards. Logic will "turn the claim back on itself."

- These statements violate the "Law of Non-Contradiction" the fundamental law of all logic.

"My brother is an only child." – or – "My parents had no kids."
Or – "Everything I say is a lie."

If we live our lives based on false principles (*Your Truth*) not connected to *reality*, then eventually you will get hurt.

When it comes to the Truth – These are self-defeating statements:

- "There is no Truth." Response: "Is that True?"
 - If it is true, then the statement just defeated itself.
- "There is **no absolute Truth**." Our response: "Are you absolutely sure of that?" – That statement is self-defeating because it is stated as an absolute truth.

- "There is *not THE Truth, only MY Truth*." Response: "Is that just YOUR Truth, or THE Truth?" If it is just Your Truth, then it's just your opinion, but if it is True for Everyone (a "THE Truth") then it defeats itself. This is a deep Truth statement saying there are no deep Truths.

- "I have *MY truth and you have YOUR truth*." – Response: "Is that true for you or for everyone? If so, then there must be truth for EVERYONE." ALSO – Response: "You cannot have your

own truth any more than you can have your own Math." Math is a constant that doesn't change – as is Truth.

There is **NO** "my truth" or "your truth" – just **TRUTH**.

- "It's true for you, but not for me." – Like *Jesus is True for you but Buddha is true for me*. Try that with your bank teller – "I want \$100k out of my account with only \$6.14" – "Well, that may be true for you, but not for me. Give me my \$100k." – **NO** – It is just true for all people at all times - \$6.14 is all.

- If God exists and Jesus rose from the dead then it is true for all people of all times and places – regardless of your belief. And if He did not raise from the dead, Christianity is false, regardless of your belief.

Ask Church goers: Do you think Christianity is True? Why?
- "I have faith" – But is there evidence too? Yes.

Response: Does believing in something make it true? Does believing in gravity keep you on the ground? **NO**. Something is True regardless how many, if any, believe the Truth.

TWO kinds of Belief: Belief THAT, and Belief IN.

- Belief THAT God exists won't get you forgiveness
- One must move from Belief THAT to Belief IN – Surrender TRUST IN CHRIST as your Savior.

- "You ought not judge." Respond: "Isn't that a judgment?"
"Aren't you judging me by saying that?" Jesus is talking about judging rightly not hypocritically (Matt. 7) – so take the log out of your own eye then you will be able to see clearly to help your brother. We make "judgments" every day – we need to judge between good and bad, safe and dangerous, right and wrong. – The question is not about making judgments, but making right judgments without being judgmental.

The TRUTH will divide people, families, and communities!

Augustin (?) said: "*We love the Truth when it enlightens us, and we hate the Truth when it convicts us.*"