

Live in the Truth

A Disciple's Reality

A follower of Christ is one who lives in the Truth not deception. He sees all things as they really are, not as they appear to be, and because of this, he is able to discern the empty promises of momentary pleasures and superficial success. But how do you determine what is true or real? How can you separate the genuine from the counterfeit? Most depend on their physical senses and intellect. Some would even include intuition. But our adversary, the devil, is the preeminent deceiver and even the smartest among us are fooled! Our lust for possessions, prominence, power and pleasure can lead any of us down the wrong path. As the writer of Proverbs noted ...

Memorize 

There is a way *which seems* right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 16:25

Interpretation

1. What makes something appear 'right' to us? _____

2. What examples might apply to Proverbs 16:25? _____

But first, we must ask the question posed by Pontius Pilate to Jesus Christ. 'What is truth?' Of course, the answer for Pilate was standing right in front of him, literally! **Jesus was Truth personified!** By this we mean that His Person was permeated with the *reality* of God, and His Life was lived in *absolute congruence* to that reality! Everything Jesus did and said reflected this Truth to the end that He would not lie even to avoid the excruciating death on the cross.

Truth is absolute! Truth is not negotiable nor even relative. And it is so because its source is the One who is Absolute. God is Truth Who alone determines what is real, genuine, actual and right. And He has revealed His Truth to us through the testimony of His Son, by His Spirit and in His Word.



2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-14
Revelation 12:9
1 Corinthians 16:9

Proverbs 16:25

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What kind of 'way' is there.
- ✓ Where a right way might end.



John 14:6
John 1:17-18
John 18:37-38

Notice what Jesus said when He prayed for His disciples on the evening before His arrest.

- 14 "I have given them Your word;
and the world has hated them,
because they are not of the world,
even as I am not of the world.
- 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world,
but to keep them from the evil one.
- 16 "They are not of the world,
even as I am not of the world.
- 17 "Sanctify them in the truth;
Your word is truth.

Memorize 

John 17:14-17

Interpretation

1. Explain the reason Jesus gave for why the world hated the disciples. _____

 2. What is the significance of Jesus' request in v 15? _____

 3. In what ways are the disciples 'not of the world'? _____

 4. What did Jesus mean in v 17? _____

- How does the 'word' sanctify us? _____

John 17:14-17

Circle or Underline:

- v 14 What Jesus gave His disciples.
Who hated them.
Why they were hated.
- v 15 What Jesus asked the Father not to do.
What Jesus asked Him to do.
- v 16 What they are not of.
- v 17 Into what they are to be sanctified.
What is truth.



Psalm 19:7-9
Psalm 119:9, 11

We all have a need for love. But when that need results in seeking the approval of men, we are in trouble. In our quest for this approval, Christians have often sought to emulate their worldly neighbors, endeavoring to look and act like them to gain their favor. We need to stop that!

So do not be surprised if your 'friends' or 'acquaintances' turn against you! Rejoice! For they are seeing Christ in you, whom they hate.

We are to stand for Truth in this world, not grovel for men's applause. The world we were made for is not this one, but will come with the return of our Lord. Then, and only then, will your love and devotion for Christ be truly honored and rewarded, for God's Truth will be the foundation of Christ's reign!

I have heard people call the Bible all kinds of things: Ancient myths, a bunch of contradictions, children stories, archaic literature, irrelevant history, and other things not fit to print. And these mostly from people who have never seriously read the Bible at all!

But to those who have had their eyes opened by the Spirit of God through new birth, Scripture is a bottomless font of Truth ... the essence of God's Wisdom codified as a veritable program for our minds. Those who would program their minds with the Truths of God's Word will inevitably be able to decipher the true meaning and value of things around them and come to know God's perfect Plan and Purpose for His creatures. Romans 12:2 is most applicable here.

Memorize 

And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
so that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2

Interpretation

1. The word 'conformed' contains the idea of being pressed in a mold. How does this

apply here? _____

2. What is the significance of the 'renewing of the mind'? _____

When our minds are renewed and sanctified by the Word of God, the treasures of this world (fancy cars, chic clothes, luxury homes, the finest entertainment systems, the latest electronic toys, etc.) lose their allure. In the context of God's Eternal Kingdom, they are revealed for what they really are ... vanity that appeals to our sinful nature, not our true nature in Christ.

When you live in the Truth, you begin to focus on the things that really matter ... the things that really count! ... The things of God. I promise you that when we've been in heaven a thousand years, you will not spend a moment regretting giving up the world and living in the Truth of God!



2 Peter 3:3-4

Romans 12:2

Circle or Underline ...

- ✓ What we are not to be conformed to.
- ✓ How we are to be transformed.
- ✓ What we will be able to prove.
- ✓ What God's Will is.

Picture people's minds being pressed into the pre shaped mold of worldly thinking and values. This, of course works better on younger minds that are more impressionable. But as people age, their thinking becomes hardened, making it more difficult to effect a change. That is why it often takes a crisis to make people think in a different way than they are accustomed to.

Human potential speaker, Dr. Wayne Dyer is fond of saying, 'When you change the way you see things, the things you see are changed.' That of course is true, if you simply want to see things in a different light. But if you want to see things as they truly are, then you must see them truthfully. When God's Word changes the way we think, we begin to see things in the light of God's Truth. Then, and only then, do we see things, not just differently, but actually!

Live in the Truth

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Jesus said
"If you continue in My word,
then you are truly disciples of Mine;
and you will know the truth,
and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32