

Doctrine of Truth

1A Introduction: Definitions of Truth.

- 1B** God is truth, He gives truth, He demands that we live by the truth, He demands truth of our words and lives.
- 2B** Truth is the nature of absolute reality. It is the relation of knowing to reality. (The following is from Milton D. Hunnex, Chronological and Thematic Charts of Philosophies and Philosophers.)
 - 1C** Truth may be descriptive, applying to statements, propositions, or beliefs that are:
 - 1D** Necessarily, i.e., analytically, true, as, e.g., If P implies Q and P is the case, then Q is the case, or,
 - 2D** Contingently, i.e., empirically, true, as, e.g., The earth is round.
 - 2C** Truth may be instrumental, applying to beliefs that guide thought or actions successfully, as, e.g., acting on the belief that fire burns helps one to avoid getting burned. Truth functions as an adverb, e.g., one believes truly.
 - 3C** Truth may be substantive or ontological, referring to the real, as, e.g., God is Truth. Truth functions as a noun.
 - 4C** Truth may be existential, referring to one's way of life or ultimate commitment. One lives rather than knows the truth. Truth functions as a verb.
- 3B** God is absolute reality, and He communicates absolute reality. His version of reality is a true one.
- 4B** Since truth is also about communication, there are a few human virtues that attend to this concept.
 - 1C** Honesty. That with your communication you represent the truth.
 - 2C** Clarity. That with your communication the truth is made clear.
 - 3C** Forthrightness. That you communicate at least as much truth as is necessary for the need.
 - 4C** Veracity. That you keep your given word.

2A Biblical Survey.

- 1B** God is truth and He abounds in truth.
 - 1C** Exodus 34:6, The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;
 - 2C** Psalm 57:10, For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds.
 - 3C** Psalm 117:2, For His lovingkindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!
- 2B** The truth of God is inseparable from the other attributes. Psalm 85:10, Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 3B** God's truth goes into action. He applies the truths that He knows. Psalm 111:7-8, 7 The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure. 8 They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness.
- 4B** Jesus Christ is the embodiment of truth.

- 1C** John 1:14-17, 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
- 2C** John 14:6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- 5B** God the Holy Spirit guides us into all the truth. John 16:13, But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
- 6B** God has veracity; He keeps His word.
- 1C** 2 Samuel 7:25-29, 25 "Now therefore, O LORD God, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house, confirm *it* forever, and do as You have spoken, 26 that Your name may be magnified forever, by saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel'; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You. 27 "For You, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made a revelation to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You. 28 "Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant. 29 "Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever."
- 2C** Psalm 132:11-12, 11 The LORD has sworn to David A truth from which He will not turn back: "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne. 12 "If your sons will keep My covenant And My testimony which I will teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever."
- 7B** Truth leads to virtue love. 1 Peter 1:22-23, 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.
- 8B** God answers truthful prayers with truth. He answers truth with truth.
- 1C** Psalm 69:13, But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, at an acceptable time; O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness, Answer me with Your saving truth.
- 2C** Psalm 145:18, The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.
- 9B** Satan is the enemy of truth. John 8:44-46, A44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I

Speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

10B We are to serve God in truth.

1C Joshua 24:14, Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

2C 1 Samuel 12:24, Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

11B Truthfulness qualifies you for worship

1C Psalm 15:1-5, Psalm 15:1 <A Psalm of David.> O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? 2 He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. 3 He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He does not put out his money at interest, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.

2C John 4:24, God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

12B Truthfulness qualifies one to judge, and to take the witness stand

1C Exodus 18:21-22, Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them *as* leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 22 "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear *the burden* with you.

2C Zechariah 8:16-17, 16 'These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. 17 'Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD."

13B Truth is a necessity for guidance.

1C 2 Samuel 2:5-7, 5 David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, "May you be blessed of the LORD because you have shown this kindness to Saul your lord, and have buried him. 6 "Now may the LORD show lovingkindness and truth to you; and I also will show this goodness to you, because you have done this thing. 7 "Now therefore, let your hands be strong and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

2C Psalm 25:5, Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

3C Psalm 43:3, O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.

4C Psalm 119:105, Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

14B Absolute honesty is the condition for forgiveness. Psalm 51:6-7, 6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. 7

Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- 15B** We understand the gospel and God's grace plan through the truth. Colossians 1:3-6, 3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;
- 16B** We are to match our lives to God's truth. Psalm 86:11, Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.
- 17B** Arrogance prevents an understanding of the truth. Repentance precedes an understanding of the truth.
- 1C** 2 Timothy 3:6-7, 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 2C** 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
- 18B** Truth is a foundation stone for authority, Proverbs 20:28, Loyalty and truth preserve the king, And he upholds his throne by righteousness.
- 19B** Truthful witnesses give testimonies that resound forever, Proverbs 21:28, A false witness will perish, But the man who listens *to the truth* will speak forever.
- 20B** Truth is something that will always have value, Proverbs 23:23, Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, *Get* wisdom and instruction and understanding.
- 21B** We are commanded to get truth into our lives, to inculcate it. Proverbs 3:3, Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 22B** The truth sets you free from the slavery of this world. John 8:31-32, 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- 23B** Truth is the means for sanctification.
- 1C** John 17:17-19, 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
- 2C** Psalm 119:9, How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word.
- 3C** Psalm 119:11, Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.
- 24B** Hearing and applying the word of God leads to blessing. Luke 11:27-28, 27 While Jesus

was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed." 28 But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

25B Truth leads to virtue love. 1 Peter 1:22-23, 22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

26B Suppressing the truth leads to judgment, Romans 1:18, For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

27B We are to speak the truth; and when we speak the truth, it is to be from the motive of love.

1C Ephesians 4:22-25, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.

2C Ephesians 4:14-15, 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

28B We are required to have veracity. Numbers 30:2, If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

29B The church is to be a living example of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:14-16, 14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

30B Pastors are to accurately represent the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:14-15, 14 Remind *them* of these things, and solemnly charge *them* in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless *and leads* to the ruin of the hearers. 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

31B Involvement in sensuality maligns the way of truth, 2 Peter 2:2-3, 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligne; 3 and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.