

# Living Right-Side-Up in an Upside-Down World

*(Part 1, 10 Part Series)*

## “Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong?”

“So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ 34 Jesus answered, ‘Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?’ 35 Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered 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 have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.’ 37 Then Pilate said to Him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. 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.’ 38 Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’ After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, ‘I find no guilt in Him.’ (John 18:33-38a)

25 “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3 KGV)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)

Foundational Question - “What is truth?”

Relative Truth = “whatever seems right to me, therefore is right for me.”  
It is subjective, personal, emotional and variable.

“Pluralism” = all views are equal in value. All views are equally true / right.  
Truth has become a matter of taste or personal preference. The distinction between right and wrong is fluid.

Absolute Truth = “That which is true for all people, for all times, for all places.” It is objective, universal and constant.

“Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides Me? There is no rock; I know not any.” (Isa. 44:8)  
“If there is no absolute moral truth then one cannot say in a final sense that anything is right or wrong. By absolute we mean that which always applies, that provides a final or ultimate standard.” -Francis Schaeffer

“Right thinking and right living therefore demand careful discipline and an unyielding commitment to the truth.” -John MacArthur Jr.

## How do we know absolute truth?

### 1. God's Word is the truth.

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

God's word does not contain truth - it is truth!

David's Prayer - “And now, O Lord God, You are God and Your words are true.”  
(John 17:17)

“The grass withers, the flowers fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”  
(Isa. 40:8)

### 2. Jesus is the truth.

“the truth” (John 14:6)

“If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

We cannot separate the principle of truth from the person who embodies it - Jesus Christ.

In English - Reigning Monarch, “Defender of the faith.”  
On all British coins - “FD” (fidei defensor).

(1994) Prince Charles announced he would change the title “Defender of the faith,” so as not to elevate Christianity over other religions.

### 3. The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth.

“even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive...” (John 14:17)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth...” (John 15:26)

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.” (John 16:13)

## **He Guides Us!**

### **Therefore, what conclusions should we make about truth?**

#### **1. We live in an upside-down world.**

“...these men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.”  
(Acts 17:6b)

“These things I speak in the world...” (John 17:13)

“I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (14)

The World is Not...

“I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one.” (15)

“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his words should be exposed.” (John 3:20)

“They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.” (John 17:16)

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.” (Isa. 5:20)

“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight.”  
(21)

“He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike - an abomination to the Lord.” (Prov. 17:15)

“An army e-mail labeled pro-family Christian ministries as “domestic hate groups,” listing them with the KuKluxKlan and Neo-Nazis.” -J. Paul Nyquist, “Prepare”

#### **2. We live in a blind and confused world.**

“the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers” (2 Cor. 4:4)

“...they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened.”  
(Rom. 1:21)

“claiming to be wise, they became fools...” (22)

“...and since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.” (28)

“Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion...are undermining the solid foundation of morals-the best security for the duration of free governments.” -Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration, framer of the Bill of Rights

### **3. We live in a world that has thoughts and ways that are very different than God's.**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord.” (Isa. 55:8)

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (9)

“He is the Rock. His work is perfect...a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.” (Deut. 32:4 KJV)

“Truth is objective, because God exists outside ourselves; it is universal because God is above all; it is constant because God is eternal.” -Josh McDowell, “Right from Wrong”

“One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law...There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations.” -Joseph Story, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Appointed by President Madison

## **What steps should we take?**

### **1. Humble ourselves, fear God, repent and seek His truth.**

“...but this is the one to whom I will look; he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (Isa. 66:2)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Prov. 1:7)

A profound awareness of God and reverence for who He is and what He says and what He requires.

### **2. Be willing to obey the truth.**

“If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.” (John 7:17)

“Erwin Lutzer declares, ‘The day of the casual Christian is over. No longer is it possible to drift along, hoping that no tough choices will have to be made.’”

“Albert Mohler... ‘There will be no place to hide, and there will be no way to remain silent. To be silent will answer the question. The question is whether evangelicals will remain true to the teachings of Scripture and the unbroken teaching of the Christian church for over two thousand years on the morality of same-sex acts and the institution of marriage.’”

### **3. Stand firm on the truth!**

“Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.” (Psalm 119:89)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (105)

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.” (114)

"In this day of gathering storms, as moral deterioration of political power spreads its growing infection, it is essential that every spiritual force be mobilized to defend and preserve the religious base upon which this nation's founded; for it has been that base which has been the motivating impulse to our moral and national growth. History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline.

There has been either a spiritual reawakening to overcome the moral lapse or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster.” -Douglas MacArthur, Commander of the Allied Forces in the Pacific - W.W. II