

## *Do You Have the Truth?*

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**Introduction:** Is this a question we should even ask?

- A. The spirit of this age has infected the church to the point that some will laugh.
  - 1. Some may be like Pilate and deny any such possibility. **(Jn 18:38)**
  - 2. Are we like Pilate or like Jesus? “Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice” **(Jn 18:37)**
- B. It is not “legalism” or “traditionalism” to pursue a principled life based upon definitive answers found in the word of God.
  - 1. New Testament Christians would have been startled that anyone would ever question the need to seek the truth about all things God revealed.
  - 2. Consider how the Apostle John described Christians in **2 John**.
    - a. “all those who have known the truth” **(1:1)**
    - b. “the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever” **(1:2)**
    - c. “I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father” **(1:4)**
  - 3. Later John plainly wrote that we need to know if “we are of the truth.” **(1 Jn 3:19)**

### ***I. How to Know You are of the Truth***

- A. It begins with our conversion to Christ. **(1 Pt 1:22-23)**
  - 1. Our souls were purified in obeying the truth!
  - 2. The process of conversion changes the heart and makes it open and pliable to God’s word. God’s word is perfect and incorruptible!
  - 3. When the Lord changes a heart it will now be characterized by fervent love.
- B. The same process that led one to Christ must continue with the Christian.
  - 1. He must be willing to hear!
  - 2. How many Christians will take time to even consider a question of truth? What is the difference between “the spirit of error” and “the spirit of truth?” **(1 Jn 4:6)**
  - 3. How many are quick to write off all controversy? How many view all discussions of disagreement as dangerous and unspiritual?
- C. When I left denominationalism and later “liberalism” there was one strong, common characteristic of the churches that I left.
  - 1. When I attempted to get others to open the Bible and discuss differences, almost everyone refused and most of those did so with anger.
  - 2. People who do not seek and fight for the truth will not have it in their hearts. **(Jn 3:19-21)**
- D. Those who are of the truth fight to keep a pure conscience. **(Titus 1:14-16)**
  - 1. A hardened heart does not care anymore. They will use ridicule and name calling. (Ex. Discussion lists)
  - 2. I am seeing more and more cases where a Christian who questions a

practice is branded as an “enforcer” or a “troublemaker.”

3. Those that are “of the truth” may come to be pilgrims and strangers in churches that have long since departed from the truth!
4. How many elderships are more interested in ‘keeping the peace’ rather than “keeping the Truth?” **(1 Jn 2:3-6)**

## ***II. How did the Apostles Handle Open Opposition?***

A. We will look at two cases in the book of Acts.

1. The apostles did not call their opponents a name and then run and hide!
2. Does your church believe in following the example of the apostles?  
**(1 Cor 11:1)**

B. Paul’s response to the opposition of Elymas. **(Acts 13:6-12)**

1. This opponent did not have a good conscience. How could a Jew be a sorcerer?
2. This man in his deceit was able to influence others. There is a place and time to confront such a man.
3. Paul plainly spoke to the actions of this man and appealed to a standard of truth and practice identified as “the straight ways of the Lord.”
4. Sergius Paulus was describes as intelligent and he was obviously fair.
5. God will allow us to fight and struggle to determine “who is right.”

C. Paul’s response to the opposition of Tertullus. **(Acts 24:2-21)**

1. There are two distinct approaches made to convince others.
2. Tertullus appealed to oratory and innuendo, Paul appealed to evidence.
3. Tertullus used every prejudicial tactic he could including calling Paul a “ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.”
4. Tertullus also attacked everyone he perceived as being a possible witness of Paul including the Roman centurion Lysias.
5. Paul gave great emphasis to honesty and seeking a good conscience.  
**(Acts 24:15-21)**

## ***III. I must stand upon the truth of God’s Word.***

A. Consider some common “arguments.”

1. This man and studied more and is smarter. **(Jn 7:48-49)**
2. Will I go to hell if I do not agree? **(Rom 3:4)**
3. What if ..... tree limb, sudden death.... “whose wife will she be in the resurrection?” **(Mk 12:18-27)**

B. Where do these and other “arguments” leave the Bible?

***Conclusion:*** Do you have the Truth?

- A. The world will laugh and howl and ridicule. Do not focus on them.
- B. The Lord will lead you and one day praise you as you enter into the place where are you know the Truth will go. **(Jn 8:31-32)**