

The Lights of Christmas

Part 4: The Light of Truth Personified

John 1:14-17

Truth **DEFINED**: Real reality as it really is...

Truth is **GOD'S THOUGHTS...**

regarding **HIMSELF** and how **HE WIRED** the world to work

Truth needed to be **REVEALED** to Human Beings

Romans 1:20; Psalm 119:160; John 1:14, 17

Truth is **REVEALED** to us:
the **Creation**, the **Word**, and the **Person** of Jesus Christ

Truth cannot be **CREATED** by us;
we **DISCOVER** truth, **EXPLAIN** truth, and **APPLY** truth

Truth was '**REALIZED**' in Jesus

Jesus is a **GRACIOUS TRUTH TELLER**

Truth has two **FOCAL POINTS**: God's **GLORY** and our **GOOD**

Truth reveals something about God's **NATURE** or **CHARACTER**

Truth sets us **FREE** from false ideas and realities;

(Aligning my life to truth vs. aligning truth to my life)

We are now the ambassadors of **GRACE** and **TRUTH**

2 Corinthians 5:19-21

Firm Center (Truth) with **Soft** Edges (Grace)

Matthew 9:35-38; 1 Peter 3:15

Auburn Grace Community Church – New Year's Eve 2024

Life Group Discussion Questions – December 31, 2023

John 1:14,17 *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.... For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*

DISCOVER

1. What is meant by Jesus being full of truth? Describe how Jesus was truth personified? How does fulfillment of prophecy shine light on Jesus being the way, the truth and the life?
2. Do you have to believe truth for it to be true? In what areas does truth seem flexible in the world today? Is this the same as replacing God with ourselves or idols? Since there is only one source of truth, why don't Christians always believe the same? What can believers do to draw closer to each other in beliefs?
3. As a believer, what distracts you from truth? What distracts the world from truth? How would you contrast truth as demonstrated by Jesus and the beliefs of those who worship science? Do you really believe that truth sets you free? What does it set us apart from?
4. Where do we go to learn truth? Should we withhold grace if we don't know truth? How do false 'truths' hurt us?

EXPLORE

1. Truth without grace repels people. Grace without truth binds people. Why is it important to lead with grace prior to speaking truth? How was Jesus a gracious truth teller? What goes wrong if we don't combine grace and truth? Describe the impact of someone that was full of truth but lacked grace.
2. Read John 8:1-11 and 1 Peter 3:15. How do you see the characterization of a firm center with soft edges played out in these scriptures? Where are you at in the spectrum of having a firm center and soft edges? When have you led with truth and skipped giving grace? What was the result?
3. In John 1:17, what does it mean that we "realize" truth through Jesus? Why must truth be defined? Truth is God's thoughts regarding Himself and how He wired the world to work. Is it possible for us to generate truth. Explain.

EXPERIENCE

1. When have you believed something that wasn't true? Describe how you corrected your line of thinking. How might pride hold us back from aligning our thinking with God's design? What can you do to be more adherent to the truth of the Bible? Why is it important to apply truth, not just to discover truth?
2. Why should we mold our 'reality' into the truth of scripture? If we don't feel our life experiences match the truth of scripture, then what should we do? How can we remind ourselves that truth is God's thoughts, not ours? How do we align our beliefs with God, instead of looking for scripture that aligns with our beliefs? Give examples.
3. What do you need to work on in the coming year, a firm center or soft edges? What will it take for you to improve?

PRAY

Pray...God, we find all kinds of things to be true because they seem to make sense to us. Please hold us accountable as Your chosen ones to be the bearers of grace and truth. When we stray from Your word, please bring us back into alignment with Your truth. May the Holy Spirit guard us against speaking of anything that is against Your singular truth on any topic. And as we yearn to know Your truth, may we never forget that truth without grace repels people. Amen.