

# I. TRUTH IS WHAT I THINK IT IS.

-- DISCUSSION Q'S: --

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus alone is worthy of being our overwhelming passion, and we will only know the TRUE truth when He is more important in our life than US.

## DISCUSSION

What is something you wrongfully held as true growing up (Santa, Easter Bunny, Pickles taste good)? How did you eventually find out it was not true?

## EXPLANATION

When you've disagreed with someone, how did you attempt to convince them that your belief was true? Were they convinced?  
What are some idols in your life?  
How do your idols relate to your God-given strengths?

## APPLICATION

Read Deuteronomy 7:25-26 and I John 5:19-21.  
How are we supposed to treat our idols?  
If you are able to identify your idols (and most of us can), why do they still ensnare you? Do you justify their existence in any way?

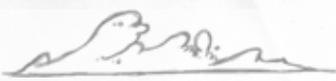
## MISSION

If you were to "diagnose" the human condition, how would you describe it?  
If we can be freed from our idols by trusting in and following Jesus... What are truths about Jesus that allow us to filter out the lies?  
How will you come alongside those ensnared by their own idols? What can result from a community that seeks truth in Christ?

Read Matthew 22:15-22

### HOMEWORK:

Who was the dumb kid in our neighborhood growing up who had 'no' conscience? *What did he do?*



# stupid summer

# I. THE TRUTH IS WHAT I THINK IT IS.

## TODAY'S VERSES:

Romans 1:18-25  
Romans 2:1-2, 5  
Exodus 20:2-3  
Deuteronomy 6:4-5  
Colossians 3:5  
Ezekiel 14  
Deuteronomy 7:26  
I John 5:21  
Genesis 29:30

## MY NOTES:

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

[ourelement.org/events](http://ourelement.org/events)

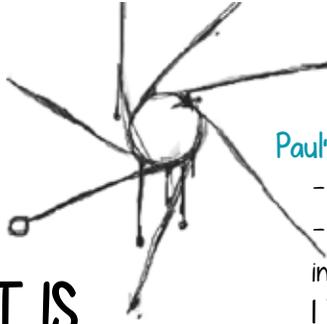


**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
Discerning the Voice of God  
Wednesday, 7/24 9:30-11a

**FILM & THEOLOGY "42"**  
THIS Friday, 6p

**MOTORCYCLE RIDE**  
July 27th  
[info@ourelement.org](mailto:info@ourelement.org)

[OURELEMENT.ORG/STUPIDSUMMER](http://OURELEMENT.ORG/STUPIDSUMMER)



### Paul's use of "truth" in various ways:

- Romans 9:1 "I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying."
- Paul spoke of "the truth," as meaning all of reality as God has revealed it; in creation (Romans 1:18) and in the gospel (Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:5; 1 Timothy 2:4).

Paul's conviction is that God has cleared away humanity's illusory beliefs and notions and in the gospel, has provided a clear perspective on reality. Through revelation we at last have reliable knowledge about God, about ourselves, about the nature of the universe, and most importantly about how to live in intimate relationship with the Lord.

The truth is not only reality as God has revealed it. The truth is reality as believers are able to experience it by making choices guided by God's reliable Word. Paul's lifestyle illustrated the reality his words described and to which he called his listeners.

### John's Use of Truth:

Over half of the NT's *aletheia* family of words ("truth," "true") appear in John's writings. At times the uses are commonplace, as in contrasting truths and falsehoods (John 4:18). John emphasizes that what is said in God's Word is reliable, for God's Word is truth, and is always in harmony with reality (John 17:17). John says that truth strips away our illusions, then takes us by the hand to guide our steps. Jesus is "the truth" (John 14:6), for all of reality finds its focus in Him.

"Truth" and "true" emphasize reliability in the Old Testament and reality in the New Testament. God is reliable because His words and works faithfully portray who He is, and they are in full harmony with reality. God's reality can be known and experienced because His reliable words and actions unveil it to a blinded humanity, which must respond to Him with faith.

The biblical concept of truth is particularly important in an age in which agreeing with what the Bible teaches is more closely associated with truth than is living out the teachings of Jesus. God's words unveil a reality that we should agree with, but that reality can never be experienced until we grasp God's reliable words by faith and put them into practice.

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-- SERMON NOTES --

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Our concept of what is true, or even if there can be ultimate truth, is one that is under attack in our world at large. There is a backlash against anyone who claims to have and to know a truth that is not relative and supersedes all other truths. One dictionary definition says it well when it defines truth as "The actuality of actual existence."

The Hebrew word for truth is derived from a verb (*'aman*), which means "to be established, certain, or faithful." There is some debate today as to whether this word can even have a dual meaning of either "true" or "faithful." Either way, truth is essentially an aspect of God's divine faithfulness. Some scholars believe that a better way to translate the word truth would be the word "reliable" as it is used to describe God. He is reliable, His ways are right, His way of seeing things is secure (Genesis 24:27; Psalm 31:5; Jeremiah 42:5).

Truth and reliable are also the words used to describe the scriptures, God's revealed word to His people in 1 Kings 17:24; Psalm 43:3; Psalm 119:43, 142, 151, and 160.

The word is used for those who walk in God's truth (Psalm 26:3) because they accept God's view as trustworthy of moral realities and act in harmony with His divine revelation. "Truth in the inner parts" (Psalm 51:6) is probably best interpreted by 1 John chapter 1. It is living honestly with God and self, confessing failures and yet struggling to choose the path God has laid out in revelation.

In the New Testament the most often used word or truth is the word *aletheia*. Both Paul and John use the concept of truth to make distinct theological affirmations.