

Lesson 1: Does Truth Exist?

1) What is truth?

Basically telling it like it is. Truth is that which conforms to reality.

2) The Law of Non-Contradiction (Reveals what is false)

Definition: Opposite ideas cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense.

Fundamental rule of all thought – one of the laws of logic.

The Law of Non-Contradiction applies to all truth claims, including religious truth claims.

This law is simply undeniable – even those who deny it, use it!

3) All Truth Is Absolute

Something that is true is true:

For ALL Persons
At All Times
In ALL Places

Objections to Absolute Truth:

- a) There is no truth!
- b) Truth cannot be known!
- c) All truth is relative!
- d) It's true for you, but not for me!
- e) No one has the truth!
- f) You ought not judge!

How to answer these objections: Apply the claim to itself

Roadrunner tactic:

Claim: There is no truth.

Response: Is that true?

Claim: There is no such thing as absolute truth.

Response: Are you absolutely sure?

Claim: It's true for you but not for me.

Response: Is that true for everybody?

All truths are true for everyone at all times and in all places.

If Jesus rose from the dead, that is true for everyone – no matter if you believe it or not.

The most common reasons Christians give for believing in the Bible: “I have faith.”

Does your faith – or lack of it – make the Bible and Christian beliefs true or false? Of course not!

There are at least two kinds of “faith”:

Belief that

Belief in

Belief “that” is based on evidence – this is the subject of this course.
(According to James 2:16 even demons have this kind of faith.)

Belief “in” is better expressed in English as to “trust in”. It is volitional – a matter of will.

Most of the time when the bible talks about belief, it is talking about belief “in”.

Belief “that” is needed (Heb 11:6), but it is pointless without belief “in”

Claim: There is no truth in anything but science

Response: Is THAT a scientific truth?

The “Ph” in PhD stands for philosophy.

You cannot get all truth from science.

Claim: You can't know the real world.

Response: Then how do you know THAT about the real world?

Claim: You should doubt everything.

Response: Should I doubt THAT?

(Everyone has doubts.... But most doubts are emotional, not intellectual - not fact based. When we look at the evidence, we start doubting our doubts....)

Claim: You ought not judge

Response: Isn't that a judgement?

(Jesus did not command us not to judge, he commanded us to judge rightly and without hypocrisy. See Matt 7:1-5, John 7:24)

It is impossible to live without judging – the only question is: Are your judgments true?

We are not to be judgmental....

THE TRUTH ABOUT TRUTH

- 1) Contrary beliefs are possible, but contrary truths are not possible.
- 2) You can believe everything is true, but everything can't be true.
- 3) Objective truth can't be denied, without being affirmed.

Claim: There is no objective truth

Response: Is that objectively true?