

## You Asked For It Absolute Truth

We are in our summer sermon series called “You Asked For It.” So far we have covered spiritual warfare, Hosea and Gomer, and racism. Today will be sort of a follow-up to my last sermon on racism. We will answer the question is there absolute truth and how can I know it?

Before I can adequately address that we have to look at the culture we live in because the claims of the Bible frequently clash with our culture.

It’s your destiny to live in a world or culture where educated people don’t think there is absolute truth anymore. This of course opens the door to moral relativism which means, “knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context and are not absolute.” In other words, morality and truth shifts and changes with the times.

So this means no one can say anybody else is right or wrong. The greatest social sins are being judged mental and intolerant, which collides headfirst with scripture. And because our culture looks at truth as relative the Christian faith is viewed as just another set of unprovable and personal religious opinions and the cross is lumped together with symbols for Islam, gay rights, Judaism, paganism and so on.

In today’s world you can have your opinion and I can have mine but don’t you dare say I am wrong and you were right or that your religion is the only right way!

So let me address that for a second. Christianity is both inclusive and exclusive at the same time. Inclusive, meaning Jesus died for all, to bring forgiveness and love to all, and all those who believe it freely have it. But the other side of that coin is Christianity is also exclusive, meaning, Jesus said in John 14:6 “**I Am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.**”

***Isaiah 45:5 “I Am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.” John 10:9 “I tell you the truth, I Am the gate whoever enters through me will be saved.”***

Jesus is emphatically defining who he is, what he came to do, and that he is the only way Not just to that culture and people but for all coming time. Showing he is both inclusive, which everyone likes and also Exclusive which offends many because Jesus, by his "I Am" claims has defined for all eternity morality and the way to heaven.

Absolute truth is defined this way; Inflexible reality. Fixed, invariable, unalterable fact. This again collides with our culture of relativism. Let me give an example. The famed humanist John Dewey co-authored the humanistic manifesto which says, "There is no God and no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the props of traditional religion. With dogma and creed excluded, then in mutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed, natural law or moral absolutes." Humanists believe one should do as one feels right, but the danger to that line of thinking is enormous. The results of this is found in **2 Timothy 4:4** "***They Will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.***"

The beauty about absolute truth is no matter the times, culture, political views, moods or seasons of life you may be in, it stays the same! **Mark 13:31 says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will never pass away."** The Bible is called the word of truth and Mark 13:31 tells us heaven and earth will pass away but his word will remain! God is calling his people to stand on the truth and live it out today.

How do we hold on to the truth and know that fully? **John 8: 31,32** gives us the answer when Jesus said to the Jews that believed, "***If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.***"

To hold to his teaching implies a steadfast devotion to the truth Daily. This is a Sunday morning sermon but rather a deliberate act of devotion to the truth and the results of that devotion is, the truth will set you free.

Free from What?

The law of sin and death, from ourselves, from our past, from our own words that damn us on a regular basis, shame, guilt and condemnation. Let's get freed up this morning by excepting "the way the truth and the life."