

## 8 FINDING TRUTH

Opening Questions:

- What is “truth”?
- How can a person know if something is true?
- How can a person know what is right or wrong regarding human behavior?
- Do religious people use reason and logic well to determine truth in the God domain?
- Do scientists use reason and logic well to find truth in the physical realm?
- Do scientists use reason and logic thoroughly to evaluate human nature?

**W**e human beings use reason (the broader concept not constrained to metaphysical premises and conclusions) and the associated tool of logic (the narrower concept that is limited to the metaphysical realm of formal argument using premises and conclusions) to arrive at and know "truth." "Truth" or that which is "true" is that which is real, genuine, authentic and not fake or false. Here is Cambridge dictionary's definition of what is "true":

“Agreeing with fact; not false or wrong; based on what is real, or actual, not imaginary.”<sup>36</sup>

Here is Merriam-Webster dictionary’s definition of “truth”:

“The body of real things, events, and facts; the property (as of a statement) of being in accord with fact or reality; fidelity to an original or a standard.”<sup>37</sup>

Furthermore, to determine what is true one needs some original standard against which to judge it, as the definition of "truth" above states. An example in the material realm would be counterfeit currency. The standard to know whether a currency note or coin is fake/false is to compare it against the official standard, which would be a legally produced currency note—the real thing.

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<sup>36</sup> Cambridge Dictionary, [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org), April 2018

<sup>37</sup> Merriam-Webster Dictionary, [www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com), April 2018

An example in the human event or behavioral realm (what could be described as the eye-witness testimony realm) would be a child telling their parent that they achieved a B+ on the math exam. To determine if that is true, the parent could ask to see the original exam or ask to see the teacher's official grade book.

*This book uses observation, reason, and logic using the teachings of the historical Joshua of Nazareth as the standard of truth in the domain of God-things, spiritual things and human behavior.*

The basis for using Joshua of Nazareth for truth in those domains is his statements as follows:

But he *who practices the truth* comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God. (John 3:21)

*I am the way, and the truth and the life*, and no one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. *Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.*" (John 18:37)

If you continue in *my words/truths*, then you are my follower/disciple; *and then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!* (John 8:31-32)

For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore *the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.* (John 12:49-50)

*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.* As You sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. (John 17:17-19)

That is the primary reason why the errors of Christianity are so visible and easy to see—why we can make a reasoned case for the successful failure that is Christianity. If this author was still in a "biblical worldview", my only valid arguments could be to point to personal failures of Christian individuals (something Joshua warns us not to do) instead of corrections of principles, beliefs and cherished Christian dogma. That is part of what Joshua of Nazareth means when he says this:

If you continue in **my word** (*NOT Paul's or Moses or "the bible"*) then you are my follower; and then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free! (John 8:31-32)

In this context, free from the darkness of ignorance and error about basic existential realities, about God, about human life.

What about in the realm of the metaphysical? Logic is an essential tool to determine truth in that realm since our senses cannot validate it. Mathematics is the purest form of reasoning with unambiguous and consistent rules. One plus one equals two, for example - that is called a formal proof. Logic is priceless when sorting out claims that cannot be physically verified, like in the realm of religious or spiritual claims. Unfortunately, more and more people don't care about what is true—how about you?

There is a great misconception that “love” (improperly defined) and logic are incompatible in a person. Or, stated another way that emotions and reason are contradictory in a person. (These misconceptions promote the wrong idea that love is primarily an emotion, and we will look at that falsehood later). This idea is championed in popular culture in many different ways, but perhaps most notably with the television and movie series Star Trek and the character Mr. Spock. The view that emotions and logic are incompatible is both wrong and damaging.

People who rely primarily on their emotions generally do not like reasoning minds and are apt to call someone who uses reason well, “dry,” “strict,” “dogmatic” or “humorless” other such negative labels. And the fact is that if the person is using reason well and the person is defending against the truth(s) that reason is revealing, then they are doing very poorly indeed.

Those who rely on reason instead of emotion for most decisions often do not like people who put their mind aside to rely primarily on emotions and might label them as “too sensitive,” “wishy-washy” or other such labels. Either way, aspects of one's personality are not what are in view here, but instead, we need to know the best way or tools to use to sort out our existence, the claims we encounter and things that happen in our daily experiences.

The simple truth is that both reason and emotion play essential roles in our human experience. Feelings very much have their place in our experiences and perhaps some of the most impactful moments in our lives are colored the most beautifully by our emotions. For example, it might take our minds to plan and execute the best route to the top of a mountain. However, once we use our minds to map the way, and our bodies to get there, the beautiful view and sense of accomplishment at the top will create an emotion that will make that experience memorable. Thus, our Creator made us sentient beings, where our feelings color our thoughts and the experiences associated with them.

On the other hand, we were given by our Creator a mind to reason and a tool, logic, to know true from false. Virtually no human problems are solved through emotion, but instead, we need reason to identify them, and without identifying them, we cannot solve them. Emotions are not going to solve

energy problems or waste problems or housing problems or food production problems or the worst problems that exist - human conflict problems. In fact, emotions often create, contribute to or exacerbate human conflict problems. Instead, our ability to reason out solutions to those things is what identifies those problems and provides the opportunity to use our wills to solve them.

One of the most significant errors that many people make these days is relying on emotions or feelings to attempt to judge or evaluate a situation or facts and then to make decisions based on those emotional feelings. *An emotionally led life will almost certainly lead to a life in the cage of fear, self-pride, and selfishness.* The best an emotionally driven life will lead to is some level of chaos and confusion. Emotions are personal/individual, which is to say they typically only affect the person experiencing them unless they act on those emotions. Since this is true and people are selfish, relying on our feelings to make decisions will typically result in selfish choices. In contrast, only living by principles (and beliefs) can lead to a consistently selfless life—living by principles like selflessness, unity, and love.

Many religious people have a severe problem with observation and reason, the tools of science. This aversion to observation and reason is very unfortunate since observation and reason are essential tools to assess and evaluate the things we humans experience on a daily basis on the surface of this planet and beyond. Those who like to call themselves “scientists” do a much better job at using observation and reason to evaluate the things they concern themselves with and to come to conclusions regarding the natural, physical world.

Unfortunately, many scientists don’t do so well with solving human relationship problems since their trade or the domain of their interest does not have the tools to sort out human relationship problems and the metaphysical or spiritual realities behind them. In fact, many scientists are terrible at trying to solve human problems because they are blind to the fact that metaphysical or spiritual realities exist and this makes them poorly equipped to deal with that realm of human existence and relationship.

In the last chapter of this section, we will take a look at how cause and effect point very strongly to the existence of non-physical things. This will help those who tend to be physicalists open their mind and thus be more objective when evaluating the successful failure.

#### Chapter Summary:

- “Truth” is that which is real and not fake or pretend;
- To determine that which is true or real one needs some original standard against which to compare it;
- In the God or metaphysical or human nature or human relationship realm, the Standard to judge truth is the Creator’s Messenger, Joshua of Nazareth;

- Religious people generally are poor users of reason and logic in finding or determining truth in the God domain;
- Empirical scientists typically use reason well to find or discover or validate that which is factual in the physical realm. Science is a valuable tool in solving many physically related human problems;
- Scientists generally do not do well in the non-physical domain or origin speculation due to their usually being committed to a naturalistic or physicalist worldviews and thus ignoring metaphysical realities like the human soul and human conscience.