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The truth will set you free



Consistently in the gospels Jesus Christ tells people that they must seek the truth and the truth will set them free.

In John's gospel, chapter 8, at verses 31 and 32 we read:

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

There are some who think that Christianity could be considered anti-intellectual and yet the Bible is all about looking for, and finding, the truth.

It is truth that makes you free. It is not just about being clever or being intellectual. The result of the truth is us becoming free.

St Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians about wisdom, truth, and the reality of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 22 to 24:

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

When it says "foolishness to the Gentiles" it also means foolishness to the Greeks in the original koine-greek language of the New Testament of the Bible. Greeks at that time were the dominant people seeking intellectualism and that is why the letter to the Corinthians

talk of “Greeks desire wisdom”. Jesus Christ had been crucified, and crucifixion was the most cruel and absolute punishment of all. So for St Paul to say that “we proclaim Christ crucified” seemed like the most stupid thing of all, and yet within the Bible St Paul had found truth and absolute truth through discovering and believing the truth of Christ crucified.

In Judaism the truth was the law, and if you studied and adhered fully to the law then you would find freedom, but although the Jews studied the law yet they did not properly follow it. Jesus said to them that if you followed him then you would actually be following the law and doing what God required.

Christians are sometimes accused of being blinkered, narrow-minded and non-intellectual yet this is in total contrast to those who say they are free thinkers. Here Jesus Christ tells us the opposite is the case and tells us directly that

“...If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

So it is knowing the truth that will set you free. The truth is revealed by God and Jesus Christ. The truth is the ultimate revelation, the path to integrity. Truth is not merely about assenting to ideas, propositions and statement but about knowing a person: Jesus Christ. Knowing Jesus increases your depth of insight, broadens your mind and opens your depth of understanding.

To live in truth is to live in relationship of love with Jesus Christ and therefore with God himself. This does not mean we have all the answers but instead that we have a true means of thinking through what is before us.

For some Science is the route to understanding everything. Christianity is not against science at all. Indeed Science has been consistently promoted by Christians, and indeed Christian scientists are in the majority amongst scientists in the Western world as well as being a large proportion of believers. Science gives the means to investigate the physical world but emotions and feelings cannot really be studied by science. How you feel about something is beyond scientific study techniques and testing. So when you know the truth and truth sets you free, this is more than just science.

Without Jesus Christ all of us are shackled by sin and wrong-doing. Faith in Jesus Christ breaks those shackles.

August 2020

This writing was inspired by the words of the Rev Nicky Gumbel.

