

I AM the TRUTH

Jn 14:6; Jn 8:44, 55; Jn 14:15-17; Jn 16:13; Jn 18:36-38; Jn 18:7

I. DEFINING TRUTH

- A. Usually: correspondence between what is and what we think, between the real and the idea
- B. However: can mean authentic, genuine (“true blue”) or, as verb, make right (“true the joint”)
- C. Significant terms: objective; subjective; realism; idealism

II. MANIFESTLY the MESSIAH, LORD, SON of GOD (Reasons to Believe, meeting truth tests)

- A. Intuition (directly apprehending, seeing into), *eureka* moments—“in your Light we see light”
 - 1. Simply seeing Jesus some disciples believed Him to be the Messiah, the LORD
 - 2. Augustine’s teaching re “illumination,” God-given awareness
- B. Coherence (deductively reasoning, as in geometry & logic), concluding the parts fit together
 - 1. Some theological dogmas (e.g. Trinity deduced from Incarnation) hang together
 - 2. Given some of Jesus’ s statements, other truths follow (e.g. impeccability)
- C. Correspondence (inductively reasoning)—facts fit
 - 1. Compilation of data leads to strongly probable conclusions—disciples slowly grasp the truth
 - 2. Jesus words & actions find explanation in His nature—thus apologetics
- D. Testimony, abduction (relying on witnesses, as do historians & juries)
 - 1. Folks healed by Jesus testify & others believe
 - 2. Church trusts witnesses, both biblical and historical—from St Paul to Chuck Colson
- E. Existential (commitment to something makes it so—Kierkegaard’s “leap of faith”)
 - 1. Joining a movement, following a Leader, embracing values (cf. Eric Hoffer’s *True Believer*)
 - 2. Following Jesus (e.g. “Jesus People”), discipleship, confirms His words
- F. Pragmatic (truth works)
 - 1. Technology especially functions accordingly (mechanics discern problems, solutions)
 - 2. Jesus invited folks to “taste and see” and thousands have discovered Him as True
- G. Personal Knowledge (Michael Polanyi’s *Personal Knowledge*)
 - 1. Tacit absorption of data leads to explicit understanding of reality (e.g. “Significance Indian”.
 - 2. Disciples’ growing awareness of Jesus’ nature, recurrent during 20 centuries.

III. DESIGNING MIND: (the Cosmic Christ)

- A. OT Wisdom (Prov 8)
- B. NT Word (Jn 1:1-4)
 - 1. Formal Cause: blueprint
 - 2. Final Cause: purpose

IV. “LIVE NOT BY LIES” (Satan’s Temptations)

- A. No God—atheists’ declaration
 - 1. “New Atheists” reveal cultural shift, cultural centers often godless
 - 2. Enduring affirmation: evidences for God’s existence persuasive (cf. Aquinas & Edward Feser)
- B. No Essences (innate, givens in things),
 - 1. Naturalistic Evolutionary dogma: constant becoming via natural selection & no species, including man, has stable nature
 - 2. Christian creationism finds purposeful, meaningful Intelligent Design everywhere
 - a. Heavens declare the glory of God
 - b. Man neither angel nor beast, but fallen *imago dei*
- C. No Absolutes (true & false, right & wrong simply opinions)
 - 1. Relativism, perspectivism reigns most everywhere:
 - a. Epistemological: “my truth,”
 - b. Ethical: “do your own thing”
 - 2. Constant Christian assertion: some things simply are certain and cannot change
- D. No Beauty (art & music emotive rather than exemplary)
 - 1. “Eye of beholder” & modern art
 - 2. Consensual Christian tradition—illuminates creation & helps us adore Creator; provides insights re man