

The Faith:  
Knowing what you believe and why it's important.  
Week 1

Christianity-

“System of life and thought affecting every area of life.”

Religion focused on Jesus Christ and His teachings that make sense of understanding the world.

Jude 3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Orthodoxy- The traditional beliefs and customs of a religion.

God's existence

Coming of Christ

Holiness

God has spoken- Scripture

Redemption/cross

Respect for life

Freewill

Trinity

Return of Christ

Fallen sinfulness

Salvation/Sanctification

God is...

“God is God whether I feel Him or not.”

Syncretism

One combining different, often seemingly contradictory beliefs, while melding practices of various beliefs.

Disciple- A learner, student or follower.

Relativism

The philosophical position that all points of view are equally valid, and that all truth is relative to the individual. The belief that different things are true for different people at different times.

Common phrases

“That may be true for you, but not for me.”

“There are no absolute truths.”

Truth

64% of Americans do not believe there is truth.

54% of Evangelicals do not believe in truth.

How can you believe in Jesus and not truth?? Illogical.

Truth is the way things conform to reality.

Questioning of the truth is not new.

John 18:37-38 (NKJV)

<sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.

Absolute truth is knowable and is written on the heart.

John 8:32 (NKJV)

<sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 14:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 17:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 4:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

Romans 2:14–15 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

Truth must be shared with love.

Ephesians 4:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

“Showing and Telling the Love of Jesus”

God has spoken.

Historicity

Plato

Written around 400bc

Only seven copies survived

Earliest surviving copy was copied

Ad800-900 (1200 yrs after original)

Bible

Written between AD60 and AD 100

5700+ portions have survived

Complete manuscripts less than 300 years after original writing. Hundreds of fragments from second, third, and fourth century.

General revelation

Romans 1:18–21 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Special revelation

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,