

Masquerade – Unmasking the Lies We Believe

2 Corinthians 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 “I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

John 18:37-38 “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.” 38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

- Definition of Truth from Noah Webster 1828: Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is or has been, or shall be

1. **Speaking the truth is part of our mission.**

2 Timothy 4:1-5

- Be diligent - Preach the Word

2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

- Be prepared - address the circumstances of our culture.
- Be warned – Many will succumb to the spiritual conflict of our day and close their minds to the truth.
- Lead people to the truth now while they may still listen.

2. **Exposing the Lie is part of our challenge.**

The Lie – There are no absolute truths.

- Moral relativism asserts that moral standards are culturally-defined and therefore it may be impossible to determine what is truly right or wrong.
- It says there are no universal or absolute set of moral principles.

- **What is absolute truth?**
 - “Absolute truth is whatever is always valid, regardless of parameters or context.”

- **Why do people deny the existence of absolute truth?**
 - John 8:44 You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- **What’s the real problem with this lie?**
 - Moral relativism justifies anyone’s actions because right and wrong are only in the eyes of the beholder.
 - Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

3. The Truth – Absolute truth is ingrained in the core of our existence.

- Truth is absolute!
- 2 Timothy 4:4 “They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”
- John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”
- John 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

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4. Our Response

- **Embrace the Truth Giver**
John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- **View life holistically.**
Colossians 2:8 “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.”
 - We don’t see compartments of sacred and secular.

- It's saying look at the world through the lens of God and His Word.
- We call that a Biblical worldview.

- **Develop a biblically trained mind.**
 - 2 Timothy 4:2 "...be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."

- **Build relationships with people who do not believe like you.**

Colossians 4:5-6 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Further Thought:

- 1 – What do you believe about truth? Do your beliefs line up with God's Word? Do you want your beliefs to line up with God's Word?
- 2 – What evidence do you see in our society of moral relativism and what are its consequences?
- 3 – Make a list of a few things you will do to be prepared to engage people in a discussion of moral relativism.
- 4 – What's the best way to conduct yourself with wisdom toward someone who does not believe truth is absolute?