

Unity Through Truth

Introduction

- Previous lesson: Importance of Unity
 - God expects us to work toward unity
 - Jesus prayed for unity (John 17)
- Several keys to establishing and maintaining Unity
 - First: TRUTH

Paul's Identification of Truth...

- Warning to avoid those that lead away from truth
 - Philippians 3:1-11
 - Identified doctrine as WRONG
 - For there to be wrong, there must also be RIGHT!

An Objective Standard...

- Reliance on feeling?
 - Subjective standard!
 - Impossible to achieve unity
- There must be a way to identify truth
 - John 18:33-38
- Truth is not always easy to discern
 - 2 Peter 3:14-18

What is Truth?

- The word of God is truth
- Jesus brought the word of God
- Truth is not restricted to only what Jesus personally spoke
 - John 14:15-17, 23-26
 - John 16:12-15
- Paul and John wrote of their role in transmitting God's word
 - 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
 - Ephesians 3:1-13
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
 - 1 John 1:1-4

What is Truth?

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

What is Truth?

Hebrews 1:1–2

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

What is Truth?

John 1:17

17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

What is Truth?

John 8:31–32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

What is Truth?

John 14:15

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

What is Truth?

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The Nature of Truth...

- Truth is singular
 - Galatians 1:6-9
 - Galatians 2:4-5, 14
- Truth is absolute
 - What happens when we don't understand something the same?
 - There is still only one truth!
 - One, or both must be wrong!
 - Must study to work toward agreement
- One objective standard of truth is a primary key to unity

The Nature of Truth...

***GOD SAID IT
I BELIEVE IT
THAT SETTLES IT***

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The Preservation of Truth...

- God has provided all that is necessary to preserve truth
 - Ephesians 4:11-16
 - Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelists
 - Pastors
 - 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - Teachers
 - Hebrews 5:12-14
 - Used properly, these gifts are invaluable!
 - Ephesians 2:19-22

The Preservation of Truth...

James 3:1

1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

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Conclusion

- Meditate...and Imitate!
 - There is a standard...there is TRUTH
 - Submitting to God's truth leads to unity!

Conclusion

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Conclusion

Philippians 4:9

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.