

Always seek Truth
(Avoiding deception)

Four deception types:

- The lie
- The half truth
- The overemphasize/underemphasize
- Self-deception (selective hearing)

God's Will is for EVERYONE to come to the TRUTH - 1 Tim 2:3-4 - 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants ALL MEN to be saved and **TO COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.**

What is Truth?

For EVERYTHING there is just ONE Truth and that is Jesus - John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am THE way and THE truth and THE life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Understand, Truth is a lifestyle - John 3:21 But whoever LIVES BY THE TRUTH comes into the light, **SO THAT IT MAY BE SEEN PLAINLY** that what he has done has been done through God."

Truth is a mandatory element when it comes to worshipping God - John 4:23-24 - 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and **TRUTH**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers MUST WORSHIP in spirit and in **TRUTH.**"

Only True Believers have access to Truth - John 8:31-32 - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "IF YOU HOLD TO MY TEACHING, you are really my disciples. 32 **THEN** you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

You are either a True Believer (God's people) or not (the Devil's people) no in-between -John 8:42-45 - 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. 43 Why is my language not clear to you? **BECAUSE YOU ARE UNABLE TO HEAR WHAT I SAY.** 44 **YOU BELONG TO YOUR FATHER, THE DEVIL**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks his native language**, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet **BECAUSE I TELL THE TRUTH, YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME!**

Only those that do what Truth says are those who live in Truth- 1 John 2:4-6 - 4 **The man who says, "I know him," but does NOT DO what he commands IS A LIAR**, and **THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM.** 5 But if anyone **OBEYS HIS WORD, God's love is truly made complete in him.** **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WE ARE IN HIM:** 6 Whoever claims to live in him MUST WALK as Jesus did.

So we must follow this simple instruction - James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so **DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS.**

Those that belong to the Truth are those that love in action not with words only - 1 John 3:18-20 - 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but **WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.** 19 **THIS THEN IS HOW WE KNOW THAT WE BELONG TO THE TRUTH**, and **HOW WE SET OUR HEARTS AT REST IN HIS PRESENCE** 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

All that are in a position of responsibility must be responsible to God ONLY, which is Truth - 1 Cor 4:2-5 - 2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must **PROVE FAITHFUL.** 3 I care very little if I am **judged by you or by any human court**; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, **but that does not make me innocent. IT IS THE LORD WHO JUDGES ME.** 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Since ministers Must preach Truth, We must hold all ministers responsible to preach the WORD of God Only - 1 Thess 2:13 - And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, **you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God**, which is at work in you who believe.

God gives instruction on how we are to minister in Truth - 2 Cor 4:1-5 - Therefore, since through God's mercy **WE HAVE THIS MINISTRY**, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we **do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God.** On the contrary, by **SETTING FORTH THE TRUTH PLAINLY** we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. →

→3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
5 For **WE DO NOT PREACH OURSELVES, but Jesus Christ as Lord**, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

What is dangerously disguising itself as Truth

The first problem is we depend on ourselves for truth, which in turn makes us fools - Prov 28:26 He who trusts in himself IS A FOOL, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Things based on the world - 1 John 2:15-17 -15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM. 16 For **everything in the world** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

When we trust in man we are cursed - Jer 17:5 This is what the Lord says: "**CURSED IS THE ONE WHO TRUSTS IN MAN, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord.**"

We must be careful not to allow our wealth to distort our trust and hope - 1 Tim 6:17 **Command** those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to **put their hope in God**, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Dangers on Hindering and living outside of Truth

The problem today is man does not want truth and are working hard not to get it - 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For **THE TIME WILL COME WHEN MEN WILL NOT PUT UP WITH SOUND DOCTRINE.** Instead, **to suit their own desires**, they will gather around them a great number of teachers TO SAY WHAT THEIR ITCHING EARS WANT TO HEAR. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

God warned us about deceptive teachers - 2 Peter 2:1-3 - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom **the way of truth will be blasphemed.** 3 By covetousness **they will exploit you with deceptive words**; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. NKJV

It doesn't matter how often we HEAR the truth, it's only effective if we LIVE the TRUTH - 1 John 1:6-7 - 6 **If we claim** to have fellowship with him YET WALK in the darkness, **WE LIE AND DO NOT LIVE BY THE TRUTH.** 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Not only are those that don't follow truth in trouble, especially those that distort truth - Rom 1:18-19 - 18 **The wrath of God is being revealed** from heaven against all the GODLESSNESS and WICKEDNESS of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rejection of Truth is a Characteristic of a self-condemned person - Rom 2:8 But for **THOSE WHO ARE self-seeking** and who reject the truth and follow evil, **THERE WILL BE wrath and anger.**

There is an end result for those that live in deception and don't live in reverence - Ps 119:118-120 - 118 **YOU REJECT** all who stray from your decrees, for **THEIR DECEITFULNESS IS IN VAIN.** 119 All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross; therefore I love your statutes. 120 **My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.**

The biggest danger to Truth is deception

We must be aware of those that deceive - Rom 16:17-18 - 17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THE TEACHING YOU HAVE LEARNED. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

God Hates deceitful men - Ps 5:6 You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and **DECEITFUL MEN THE LORD ABHORS.**

Deception in our lives distorts the effect of the Truth in our lives - Mark 4:18-19 - 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, **the deceitfulness of wealth*** and the desires for other things come in and **choke the word, making it unfruitful.**

*(Wealth represents the things you value (relationships, children, career, valuables, money...)).

Simply Put we get deceived because we allow deception - 2 Cor 11:3-4 - 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, YOU PUT UP WITH IT EASILY ENOUGH.

Deception is a Choice and God commands us not to be deceived

Being worldly wise vs Godly wise - 1 Cor 3:18-20

Not recognizing who will and will not go to Heaven - 1 Cor 6:9-11

Not heeding the warning concerning bad company - 1 Cor 15:33-34 -

Not realizing the outcome of our life purpose - Gal 6:7-8

Not recognizing what is good and what is not - James 1:16-17

Not checking everything we are taught - Col 2:8, 1 John 3:7-8, Heb 13:9, Eph 5:6-7

Self-deception is a serious part of deception that really distorts our walks - Gal 6:3-5 - 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he DECEIVES HIMSELF. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load.

We must make sure we are not our source of measure - 2 Cor 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When **they measure themselves by themselves** and compare themselves with themselves, THEY ARE NOT WISE.

Christians must realize the most deceptive thing to us is us and our desires so we must live to remove self - Eph 4:22-24 - 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is **being corrupted by its deceitful desires;** 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

How to Get Truth

God's Word is what conditions us to be used by God only - John 17:17 Sanctify them **by the truth;** YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.

Obeying God's Word purifies us to be used by God - 1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves **BY OBEYING THE TRUTH** so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

The WORD makes us Pure and only the Pure live by Truth - Titus 1:13-16 - 13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be **sound in the faith** 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. 15 To **THE PURE,** all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, **nothing is pure.** In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but **BY THEIR ACTIONS THEY DENY HIM.** They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

It is so necessary that we receive the Truth (Christ) from the Truth (The Bible) - Eph 4:20-21 - 20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth **THAT IS IN JESUS.**

Our guide to truth is the Bible. If the Jews would have searched the Bible for truth, they would have clearly seen Jesus - John 5:45-47 - 45 "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. 46 If you **believed Moses, you would believe me,** for **HE WROTE ABOUT ME.** 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, **how are you going to believe what I say?**"

We MUST live our lives in COMPLETE Trust in God –

John 14:1 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. **TRUST IN GOD; TRUST ALSO IN ME.**

Jer 17:7 "But **BLESSED IS THE MAN** who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

True Love keeps us in True trust - 1 Cor 13:6-7 - 6 **LOVE** does not delight in evil but **REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.** 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

The results of effective Church services are people no longer being confused and deceived and growing with the Body in Truth –

Eph 4:14-15 - 14 **THEN** we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and **blown here and there** by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15

INSTEAD, speaking **THE TRUTH IN LOVE,** we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Col 2:2-4 - 2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, **CHRIST**, 3 **IN WHOM** are hidden **ALL** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 **I TELL YOU THIS SO THAT NO ONE MAY DECEIVE YOU BY FINE-SOUNDING ARGUMENTS.**

We ARE NOT to believe everyone - 1 John 4:1-3 - Dear friends, **DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT**, but test the spirits to see **WHETHER THEY ARE FROM GOD**, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

We are commanded to Test all things - 1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 **TEST EVERYTHING.** Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.

How to help ourselves and others to Stay in the Truth

We are responsible for holding one another based on TRUTH- Gal 2:11-14 - 11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. 12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. 14 **WHEN I SAW THAT THEY WERE NOT ACTING IN LINE WITH THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL**, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

* **DO NOT mistake this for holding one another accountable based on SELF or anything else disguised as truth.**

Ministers Job is to gently instruct those going the Wrong way and ALLOW God to guide them to the Truth - 2 Tim 2:25-26 - 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

When we bring someone back to the truth we literally save their lives - James 5:19-20 - 19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

We must make it our responsibility to God to encourage others in the body every day not to be deceived by sin - Heb 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, **SO THAT NONE OF YOU MAY BE HARDENED BY SIN'S DECEITFULNESS.**

Question: (Always seek Truth)

Name: _____

1. What is the ONLY source of Truth?

2. As long as I'm at peace at what I'm doing it should be fine. (True or False)? Please explain your answer.

3. What is the only right way for Ministers to present the Truth?

4. What must worship contain to be acceptable by God?

5. Only those that SPEAK the truth are in the Truth. (True or False)?

6. What kind of man trusts in himself?

7. What is the main reason Churches stopped preaching the truth?

8. How does God feel about deceitful men?

9. Explain how we deceive ourselves based on 1 Cor 15:33-34.

10. God's Word sanctifies us. What does it mean to be Sanctified?

11. Explain what is meant when Titus 1:13-16 states to the Pure all things are pure but to those who are corrupted nothing is pure?

12. What are all Christians responsible for testing?

13. Based on the Bible, when you turn a sinner from the error of his way you save them from what?