

- Ask the right person(s), and
- Ask the right question(s)

On a temporal note, while this may not guarantee that you actually get a “right” answer, altogether; it will certainly go a long way towards positioning you for a right answer. On the other hand, if either of those two components is missing you are far less likely to get a correct answer. If you ask a person who “knows not that he knows not,”⁽³⁾ you’re certain to receive an incorrect response although sometimes it may actually “tickle” the ears. If you position the question incorrectly; or if you do not properly define the question itself, it increases the opportunity for misunderstanding (at one end of the spectrum) and confusion (at the other). I love God (sigh).

So we see that according to the *Principle of Proper Inquiry* it is imperative that we both “ask the right question” and that we “ask the right person(s).”

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Now in light of the *Principle of Proper Inquiry* we must both properly frame the question and direct it to the correct audience.

Proper Frame

If the proper question is “WHAT is truth?” we’d probably get any number of disparate, somewhat incoherent responses. Response such as:

- Truth is a verified or indisputable fact, proposition, principle or the like⁽⁴⁾
- Conformity with fact or reality⁽⁵⁾
- An obvious or accepted fact; truism; platitude⁽⁶⁾
- Fidelity; constancy; steadfastness; faithfulness⁽⁷⁾

All of these could be very good responses, if the question is properly “What?” is truth. (... more on this shortly)

Correct Audience:

Next we’ll want to be sure that we’ve directed the proper question to the correct person(s) or audience. Example: If we wanted to know “what is truth?” We probably would not ask Pilate;⁽⁸⁾ because it is evident (from his discussion with Jesus) that he didn’t know. And if we wanted to know “what is truth?” We probably wouldn’t ask someone who doesn’t believe that there is such a thing as absolute truth.

We’d want to direct this very important question to an authority on the subject. Wouldn’t you? Hhm Where could we go for an authority on “truth? Let’s go to the Bible, the quintessential, foundational authority on all things related to “truth.”

Surveying the scriptures (on the topic of truth) leads us to a most interesting need; a need to reframe the question itself. The scriptures teach us that “truth” is not a “WHAT;” Truth is a “WHO?”⁽⁹⁾

Jesus said to him, I AM ... the *Truth* ...

Biblical Christianity is the only place (that I am aware of) where “*truth*” is a Person. This is very significant in light of the next question.

WHAT DO I DO WITH TRUTH?

Now that we have identified “Truth;” a reasonable next question is “What do I do with it?” Good question, now let’s direct this to the proper audience.

The scriptures teach that our responsibility to Truth is that we are to:

- **Speak the Truth in our heart**⁽¹⁰⁾ - In identifying who shall abide in the Lord’s tabernacle and who shall dwell in the His Holy hill; we are admonished to “speak the truth in our heart.” That means to say “who Jesus is” and to say “what Jesus says.”
- **Know Truth**⁽¹¹⁾ – If we continue to live according to every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God; we shall know the truth, and be freed thereby.
- **Sanctified through the Truth**⁽¹²⁾ – We are to allow the Lord to sanctify us through the truth. We are to so establish a relationship with truth, as to be “set apart unto it.” Intercourse with truth brings about an “otherness” to our lives. *Think*: Israel in the land of Goshen during the plagues of Egypt.⁽¹³⁾ What when on in Goshen, was something completely “other” than what went on in Egypt.
- **Do truth**⁽¹⁴⁾ – We have a responsibility to “do” truth. We are obliged to do what is true. *Non Satis Scire*: to know [truth] is not enough.
- **Bear witness to the Truth**⁽¹⁵⁾ ... for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth ... And since a servant is not above his Master, we too have a responsibility to bear witness to the truth. We bear witness to the truth by the life we live and the words that we speak.

WHAT DOES TRUTH HAVE TO DO WITH OBEDIENCE?

All of *Truth* has a most beautifully, unique relationship with *Itself*. We see this in the triune nature of the Godhead. The Father is *Truth* eternally; the Son is *Truth* manifestly; and Spirit is *Truth* up close and personal.

You may recall that Kingdom *obedience* issues from a heart that has a pre-commitment to live “subject to and in compliance with” the governance of God; and with the precepts of the Kingdom.⁽¹⁶⁾ *Obedience* issues from a heart that believes that God is “Who He has identified Himself to be” and subsequently that He worthy of our *obedience*. Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to be the quintessence of “Truth.”⁽¹⁷⁾ He is also the complete physical expression of the Godhead.⁽¹⁸⁾

Obedience is a natural response to Truth; remember Jesus Christ is “Truth.” So what relationship does *obedience* have to *truth*? Perhaps the answer is summed up in the words of Jesus: If you love Me (*Truth*), keep my commandments (*Obey*).⁽¹⁹⁾

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Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

⁽¹⁾ 2 Corinthians 6:15-17

- (2) John 18:38 paraphrased
- (3) White, J.C. December 2010, Article: *A Parable: He Who Knows Not ...*, column: *Boot Camp*; publication *Kingdom News*
- (4) 6/17/10 from Dictionary.com at <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/truth>
- (5) 6/17/10 from Dictionary.com at <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/truth>
- (6) 6/17/10 from Dictionary.com at <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/truth>
- (7) 6/17/10 from Webster's Online Dictionary at <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/definitions/truth?cx=partner-pub-0939450753>
- (8) John 18:38
- (9) John 14:6; John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15
- (10) Psalm 15:1-2
- (11) John 8:32
- (12) John 17:17
- (13) Exodus 8:22-23; 9:26; 11:7
- (14) 1 John 1:5-6; 1 Peter 1:22)
- (15) John 18:37
- (16) Kingdom News-Come Let Us Reason Together, Bible Study notes, June 3, 2010, www.kingdomnewsonline.com under Archives (coming July 7, 2010)
- (17) John 14:6
- (18) Colossians 2:9
- (19) John 14:15