



How aware is a fish of the water in which it swims? Not very. Similarly, we swim in cultural water everyday, often without realization or examination.

To complicate the matter, we live in a very polarizing time. American culture demands that we adhere to certain cultural dogmas, but it takes great thoughtfulness and courage to stop and consider whether or not these dogmas have Biblical basis or truth.

In this eight-week series, we will examine eight prevalent messages our culture preaches that, for better or worse, create the “water in which we swim” everyday. We will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each when considered in light of the gospel.

NOTE: There may be slight changes to what follows, primarily in the main passage(s) used. However, the ones shared below will be a great start and very applicable for the sermons.

The Truth Narrative

A Brief Definition: *Our culture tells us that truth and solutions to problems are based on science, logic, reason, and data. Consequently, moral reality is defined by individuals and does not exist in term of absolute truth.*

? What are your thoughts on this definition? What would you add or change?

A Satirical Example



The Truth vs. "My Truth" (Watch first 2 minutes 6 seconds...next scene contains a gun & just gets repetitive.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-SmxHPTwb8>



Discuss the video.

? Where do you see this cultural understanding of truth play out in your daily life? What impact does this type of thinking have on you and those around you?

? Where are you and the people around you getting their "truth" from? (Examples: Podcast, radio, news, conversations)

Bible



John 14:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."



John 17:7 (NIV)

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.



1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (NIV)

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



Discuss the passages above.



What other passages come to mind when you think about the topic of truth?



Biblically speaking, where does truth actually come from and how do we discover truth?



The statement, “Your word is truth.” John 17:7 states that truth actually exists outside of us, and that it is objectively knowable. What are current problems people have today with believing the Bible is God’s Word of truth?



How are we to view this cultural narrative in light of gospel?



Where are you and the people around you getting their “truth” from? (Examples: podcasts, radio, news, and conversations) How do these sources of “truth” line up with Biblical truth?



How can we, as followers of Christ, best respond to the statement, “That’s your truth. I have mine.” How can our response change in different situations?

Bonus Question: How are we, as Christians to view scientific truths?

Application & Accountability

? In what ways and circumstances do you struggle to embrace the truth of God's Word?
How can your small group come along side you and encourage you in this struggle?

? Is there someone with whom God is calling you to share his truth?

For Further Thought

Philosophical understandings of Truth vs. Scripture: <http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/philosophical-issues/what-is-truth/44342.aspx>

Is moral truth real?

<http://coldcasechristianity.com/2015/objective-truth-is-one-thing-but-objective-moral-truth-is-another/>

<http://coldcasechristianity.com/2017/if-moral-decisions-are-dependent-on-circumstances-are-there-no-objective-moral-truths/>