

“That was absolutely dreadful.”

Simon Cowell,
American Idol or America's Got Talent,
Pretty much every episode





HALF TRUTHS

GOSPEL CLARITY IN A NOISY WORLD

**LOVE
EQUALS
AGREEMENT**

HALF

**IDENTITY
IS A SECRET
PUZZLE**

**SUFFERING IS
MEANINGLESS**

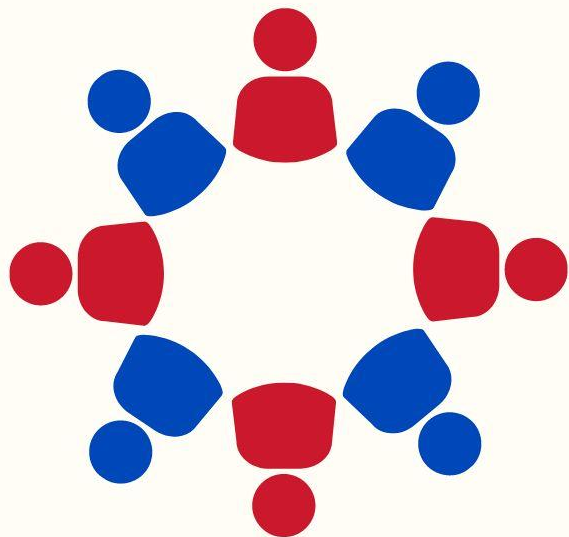
**CONTROL
IS THE
GOAL**

**MONEY
WILL FIX
THIS**

**CHEAP
GRACE**

TRUTHS

**BE
PERFECT**



NAVIGATING ELECTION SEASON WITH GOSPEL HOPE

SEPTEMBER 17TH

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1. What does this half truth declare?
2. How might it fail to deliver?
3. How does the gospel declare a better word?

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Noisy World:

Love = Agreement

Disagreement = Invalidation or Lack of Love

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If you love me, you must affirm the things
I believe about myself and the world.

If you don't, we're done here & it's mostly your fault.

**Don't call me, don't
come by my house.**



We're done.

Which half of this half truth is true?

Genesis 1:31 (MSG)

³¹ God looked over everything he had made;
it was so good, so very good!



**SHABAT
SHALOM!**

Which half of this half truth is true?

shalom

Peace, Harmony,
Wholeness, Completeness,
Prosperity, Welfare &
Tranquility

Ecclesiastes 7:29

See, this alone I found, that God made humanity upright,
but they have sought out many schemes.



2. Young Americans, Online

What it is: A [newly-published survey](#)

showed that Gen Z and millennials say they feel more like “themselves” online than offline.

What it tells us about the rising generation:

It is, perhaps, not all that surprising that a majority (45%) of Gen Z say they feel more like themselves online. This is a generation that has grown up expressing themselves in digital spaces.

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3. How does the gospel declare a better word?



Sociology



Anthropology



Therapy

How has this half truth gained acceptance?

Individualism

**Therapeutic
Culture**

Postmodernism

How has this half truth gained acceptance?



Individualism

**Therapeutic
Culture**

Postmodernism

How has this half truth gained acceptance?

Individualism



How has this half truth gained acceptance?

Individualism

*I didn't wanna leave you
I didn't wanna fight
Started to cry, but then remembered I
I can buy myself flowers
Write my name in the sand
Talk to myself for hours
Say things you don't understand*

How has this half truth gained acceptance?

Individualism

I can take myself dancing, yeah

I can hold my own hand

Yeah, I can love me better than

Yeah, I can love me better than you can

*~Flowers by Gregory Aldae Hein, Michael Ross Pollack,
& Miley Ray Cyrus*

How might it fail to deliver?

Individualism

Miley Cyrus won her first Grammy this year for her synth and strings-infused song, “Flowers,” which feels like her generation’s version of the disco classic, “I Will Survive.” But instead of echoing Gloria Gaynor’s proclamation that a willingness to love again will keep her alive, Cyrus nixes the necessity of being loved by someone else at all. Her lyrics insist that “I can love me better than you can” as she dances with herself in an LA mansion that, for all of its luxury, looks pretty lonely.



SADNESS

#INSIDEOUT

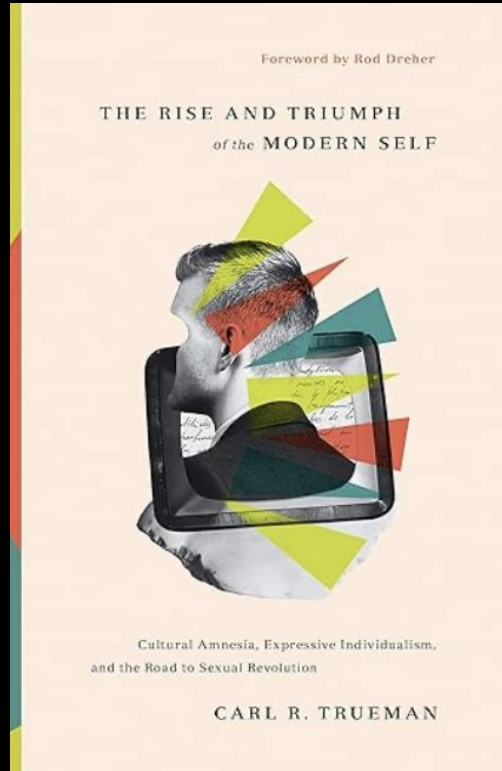
Ephesians 2:13-14

- ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- ¹⁴ For Jesus himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:14

Jesus tore down the wall we used
to keep each other at a distance.

How has this half truth gained acceptance? Therapeutic Culture





Parental-Life Coach: My job is to help new homeowners who've turned into their parents.



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PROGRESSIVE.COM

Parental-Life Coach: We all see it. We all see it.



Auto insurance from Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates. Home and renters insurance not available in all states, provided and serviced by affiliated and third-party insurers.

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Parental-Life Coach: We all see it. We all see it.
Shopper: He has blue hair...BLUE.

How might it fail to deliver?

Therapeutic Culture

Simon Cowell has long argued that he is not being mean but rather being honest and direct. From his perspective, his straightforward feedback is intended to help contestants improve and understand where they stand in a highly competitive industry. Cowell believes that sugarcoating criticism or giving false hope is ultimately more harmful than being direct about a contestant's talents and potential.



Proverbs 27:5–6

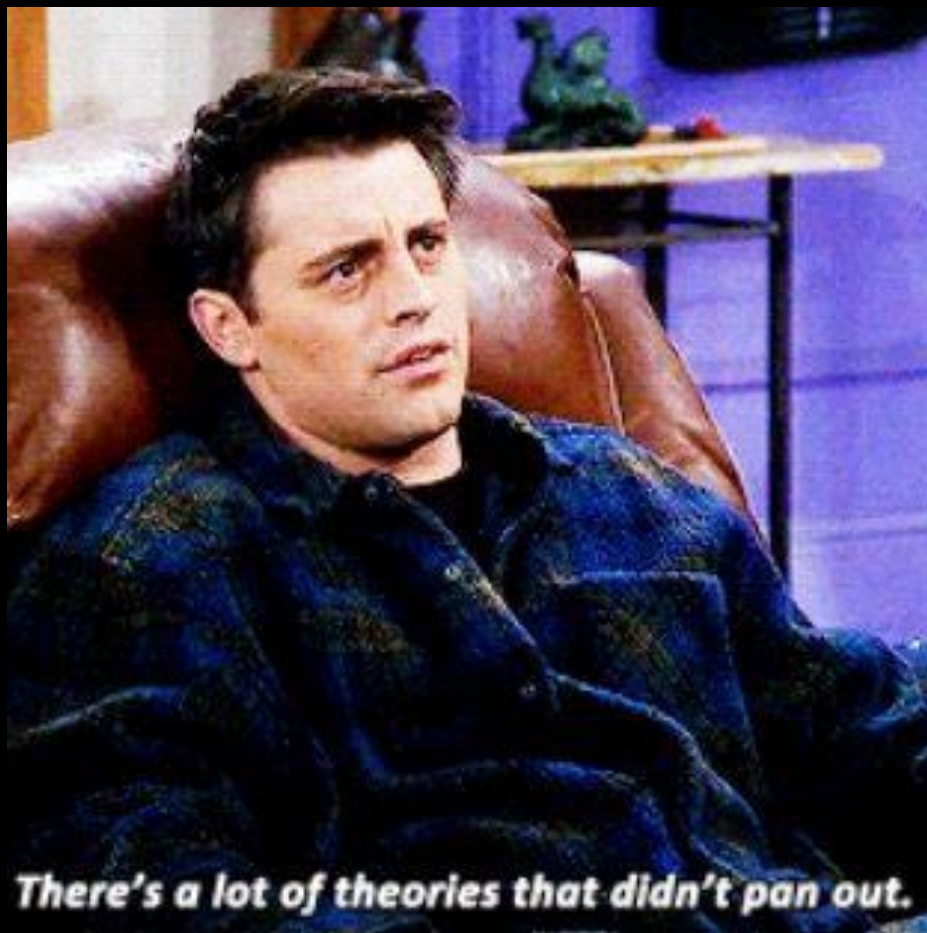
- ⁵ Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
- ⁶ Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses.

How has this half truth gained acceptance? Postmodernism

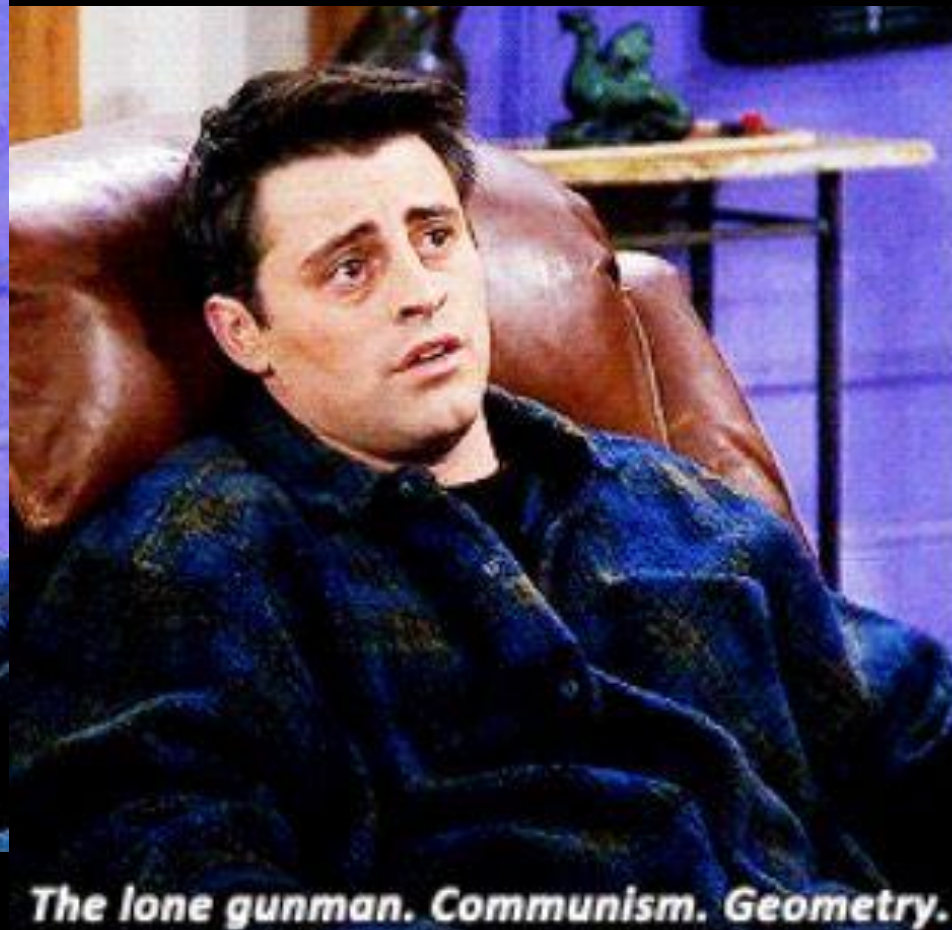


There is your truth and there is my truth. As for the universal truth, it does not exist.

— *Amish Tripathi* —



There's a lot of theories that didn't pan out.



The lone gunman. Communism. Geometry.

How might it fail to deliver?

All perspectives are equally valid.

How might it fail to deliver?

All perspectives are equally valid.

Not all perspectives are equally valid.



Matthew 20:26–28

²⁶ Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be last —
²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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The (Enemy) Love of God

Romans 5:8, 10

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!



Amidst this noisy world of half truths,
are you hearing the clear love of Jesus for you?