

Sunday Celebration (Nov 1, 2009)

Jn 17:17

"Sanctify Them in Truth"

INTRO Living in an age where the concept of "Truth" is being MARGINALIZED

“ Most ideas that shape our lives are accepted (at least initially) somewhat uncritically. We do not create a world or environment from scratch and then live in it. Rather we step into a world and culture that already exists, and we learn to interact with it.” **R.C. Sproul**, "The Consequences of Ideas", p. 9

What Has Created the "Boundaries" for Your Ideas & Beliefs?

Jesus Prayer for His Disciples: **"Sanctify them in truth. Your Word is truth."**

Jn 17:17

"Sanctify" = hagiazo (Gk.) – To consecrate, devote, set apart from a common to a sacred use

– So a Christian is one who is "SET APART" from "common ideas" — He is Removed from the Ideas of the World and Set Into Another Set of IDEAS— The TRUTH.

Is There the Presence of "Truth" in Your Life that Shapes What You Think & Believe?

What is Your SOUNDING BOARD?

Col 2:8 **BEWARE that Ideas Don't Take You Captive**

"See to it" = Blepo (Gk.) – "Beware" ... be discerning; to direct the mind

... Don't live life with your "Discernment" in NEUTRAL or in the Off Setting
... FILTER Things — Bounce them off a Sounding Board

What Things? (Paraphrase) – **"Philosophies and meaningless ideas that have their origin in human tradition and rudimentary, natural thinking and NOT in Christ"**
Col 1:15-17 **"IT's all about YOU, Jesus... and All This is For YOU!"**

“...it is only when God is acknowledged in his true place in the world and in our lives, that all other aspects of life begin to fall into their proper place.” **Mark Johnston**, “Let’s Study John”, p. 223

“Takes you captive” = (Gk.) To kidnap

Why do we think there’s NO CONSEQUENCE to disregarding God’s Ideas?— This passage tells us that CAPTIVITY is the Result of Neglecting God’s Truth! ... Consider God’s 1st and Most Basic Idea for Man:

1st Commandment — “You shall have no other gods before me”

– This sounds RESTRICTIVE & INFRINGING on our lives. It’s CONTROLLING & LIMITING

— Do we ever stop and think that it is PROPER & PROTECTIVE ... It’s BENEFICIAL & ENABLING of Ultimate Good

“...the human heart takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them. [p. xiv] Anything that becomes more important and nonnegotiable to us than God becomes an enslaving idol. In this paradigm, we can locate idols by looking at our most unyielding emotions. What makes us uncontrollably angry, anxious, or despondent? What racks us with guilt we cant’ shake? Idols control us, since we feel we must have them or life is meaningless. “Whatever controls us is our lord. The person who seeks power is controlled by power. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our lives.” [Rebecca Pipert, “Out of the Saltshaker”] ... What many people call ‘psychological problems’ are simple issues of idolatry. Pefectionism, workaholism, chronic indecisiveness, the need to control the lives of others— all of these stem from making good things into idols that then drive us into the ground as we try to appease them. Idols dominate our lives.[p. xxii]” **Timothy Keller**, “Counterfeit Gods”

Idols and Idolatrous IDEAS Take us Captive ... but the Truth Sets Us FREE!!

John 8:31-32 "...If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Is God a "KILLJOY" ... or a Releaser of Joy?

Where do the ideas that shape your life come from? What role is Truth playing in being a Sounding Board for your life philosophy and pursuits?

CHURCH HISTORY The Tendency to Replace Truth with Human Reasoning & Traditions

- **Approx. 200 AD – Tertullian of Carthage** promotes the idea of vesting authority in church tradition. [This was done amidst the effort to protect the church from "new ideas" that were heretical; a well intended effort]
- **Approx. 250 AD – Cyprian** (Bishop of Carthage) furthered Tertullian's ideas.
- **Approx. 312-337 AD – Constantine** exerted his influence on the Traditions of the Church
- **The 4th Century to the 16th Century** – The Growing Captivity of the Church to Tradition over Truth

Consequences of this Captivity to Tradition over Truth:

- The Scriptures were taken out of the hands of the common believer
- The ministry of the gospel was taken from the "laity" and restricted to the "clergy"
- The traditions of men created more and more teachings centered on human effort and merit (the rise in emphasis on the "sacraments")
- The obscuring of the Biblical teaching of the doctrine of Justification by Grace through Faith

October 31, 1517 ... "Reformation Day" – Martin Luther's 95 Theses Nailed to the Door of the Church at Wittenburg

PERSONAL HISTORY The Tendency to Replace Truth with Cultural Ideas & Philosophy

“As evangelical faith becomes secularized, its interests have been blurred with those of the culture. The result is a loss of absolute values, permissive individualism, and a substitution of wholeness for holiness, recovery for repentance, intuition for truth, feeling for belief, chance for providence, and immediate gratification for enduring hope. Christ and his cross have moved from the center of our vision.” **(From the Cambridge Declaration, 1996)**

What is the BASIS for Our Ideas and Life Choices? Is it our Family Tradition?
.... Our Regional View (Suburban America)? a Political Party? Our Race? Our Personality Bent?

Jesus Prayer for Every Christian = "Sanctify them in truth. Your Word is truth."

... Is this God being a KILL-JOY? – Or Releasing Us Into JOY!

Jer 3:21 A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel's sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the LORD their God.

Jer 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,

Ps 19:7-10 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.