

Community Church of Issaquah

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What Is the Truth?

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Before I even begin the message for today, let me share again the Scripture verses that were shared earlier:

John 8:31-32 – “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”

Good morning. So, today, I want to talk to you about truth—not just any truth, but the truth that comes from God. We live in a world where truth is often twisted, manipulated, or ignored. Every day we struggle with being able to trust elected officials, news casters, and society in general. I don’t know about you but just listening to or reading anything causes me to question if it’s true. But as followers of Christ, we are called to seek, know, and live by the truth that sets us free.

Jesus Himself declared in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” This means truth is not just an idea or a concept, it is a person—Jesus Christ. And if we truly believe in Him, our lives must be grounded in truth. I had not thought about it in that light until I saw a newsclip on YouTube in which three people of the current administration sat before Congress and deliberately lied. They were well aware that anyone who listened knew for

certain that they were not telling the truth, and yet they lied. Where was the truth? That's the core of today's message.

Jesus tells us that if we abide in His word, we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free. Let me share exactly what he said in John 8: 31-32.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

But free from what? That's the question to contemplate today.

Let me share just three things that I believe we are free from when we are believers in Jesus, who IS the truth.

ONE: Freedom from Sin:

Satan is called the "father of lies" in the Gospel of John, chapter 8 verse 44, and we know for certain that sin thrives on deception and lying. But when we come to Christ, believe in him and work tirelessly to follow his teachings and Him as our Reeder, He exposes the lies we have believed and replaces them with His truth.

TWO: Freedom from Fear:

Lies create fear, but truth brings confidence. When we trust God's promises, we no longer fear the unknown because we stand on His Word. Even so, the unknown or not knowing truth or lies can be very frightening. I always want to trust and believe God's promises, but I must confess that sometimes I slip.

THREE: Freedom from the World's Influence

The world tells us that being successful, or having power or wealth is what defines us, but the truth reminds us that our identity is in Christ. There are many who believe that if you have great wealth, your identity is certainly in keeping with what God through Jesus wants to give you. What about the minister who pastors a congregation of more than 25,000 and is paid \$54 million a year. Does that accurately or truthfully say he is in Christ? That, I don't know the answer to.

In the Epistle to the Church in Ephesus, Paul wrote this: *"Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."* Do you get what Paul is saying? The message here is very obvious for us. Truth isn't just something we believe; it's something we live.

If we are to 'live the truth,' there are some very serious things we need to consider. Let me tell you what I think about living the truth.

First, we must be honest in our words or what we say. As Christians who follow the teachings of Jesus, we are called to always speak truthfully, even when it's hard to do. On a light note, my mother told me that I was to always say something nice about people. I recall a day when I encountered a woman from church who has dressed so wildly it was more like a joke. All I could think of to say was, "Oh, Miss Gilbert, that's a very pretty hat," which was a total lie. I failed to be honest in my words.

Second, each of us must be honest in our actions. Our lives and the way we behave should always reflect Christ's

truth. We need to live with integrity. Is it true that our actions speak louder than words? As a believer in Christ and call myself a Christian, I am so often offended by those in the news who claim to be Christian and in truth, are not. My son says that's one reason why other generations won't go to church – hypocrisy.

Third, we must be honest before God. We can't hide from God believing he doesn't see when we are not living the truth. Instead, we must confess our sins and walk in his light. John writes, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Paul warns us in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 that a time will come when people will reject the truth and seek teachers who tell them what they want to hear. Here is what he said:

For a time will come when people 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. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Are we living in that time? Absolutely! Today. Here's how I think we see this every day.

One: Truth is Being Redefined – Society tries to redefine morality, but God's truth never changes.

Two: Truth is Being Silenced – Those who stand for biblical truth often face opposition, but Jesus told us this would happen (John 15:18-19).

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As

it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Three: Truth Still Prevails – No matter how much the world fights against it, the truth of God’s Word stands forever (Isaiah 40:8).

The bottom line for you and me is this, “How do we stand for truth? Peter tells us to always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in us, with gentleness and respect.

1. Know the Truth – We must study God’s Word daily.
2. Live the Truth – Our lives should be a testimony to God’s power.
3. Share the Truth – We are called to spread the Gospel with love and boldness.

Let me close with this word of encouragement:

Jesus didn’t just speak truth; He is the truth. If we follow Him, we must embrace truth in every part of our lives. Let us stand firm, knowing that no matter what the world says, God’s truth will never fail.

Let’s pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your truth that sets us free. Help us to live by it, speak it boldly, and never compromise it. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we may reflect Christ in all we do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.