

Truth Tips



Discerning Truth
from Falsehood in a
Pluralistic Age



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The first spiritual defection
in history began the moment
that Eve listened to the
words of the serpent:
‘Did God really say...?’

DR. MICHAEL YOUSSEF, *SAVING CHRISTIANITY?*



4 TIPS TO UPHOLD TRUTH IN YOUR LIFE

There's no doubt that we live in an age of confusion—new pronouns are demanded, definitions are changing, people are even attempting to redefine Christianity. But none of this is really new. Indeed, “there is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). We

are facing the same old enemy up to the same old tricks. But, thank God, we have the same Truth, the same Spirit, to lead us so that we might hear from the lips of our Savior, “Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21).

HERE ARE 4 TIPS TO HELP YOU DISCERN TRUTH IN TODAY'S WORLD:

1 BE IN THE WORLD, NOT OF IT.



2 LOOK TO THE SOURCE OF TRUTH.



3 BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS.



4 SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.





1

BE IN THE WORLD, NOT OF IT.

Today, even professing Christians are being taken in by the deceptions of our culture as popular faith leaders deny sin and hell and attempt to redefine love and salvation. But when we pick apart God's Word, keeping some

and tossing the rest—even in the interest of bringing people to God—we inadvertently remove the hope of the Gospel. Indeed, it is no longer Good News.

JUST CONSIDER THESE STATS REFLECTING THE BELIEFS OF PROFESSING CHRISTIANS IN THE U.S. TODAY.*

19%

"NO ONE CAN KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHAT MEANING AND PURPOSE THERE IS TO LIFE."

25%

"ALL PEOPLE ARE EVENTUALLY SAVED."

26%

"ALL RELIGIONS TEACH THE SAME LESSONS."

40%

"CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS WORSHIP THE SAME GOD."

* Stats taken from The Barna Group of Ventura, California, April 2011 & May 2017, www.barna.org

IN OUR POST-MODERN WORLD, WE MUST CLING TO THE UNCHANGEABLE TRUTHS OF GOD'S WORD:

We have sinned
against the eternal
God.

We cannot enter
His perfect presence
unless our guilt is
atoned for.

There is no
sacrifice we could
make that would make
us righteous before
God for eternity.

Therefore, we
need a sinless Savior
to pay our infinite
debt and give us His
righteousness.

Receiving this
free gift of grace,
an inheritance with
God in heaven forever,
we are called to live
holy lives as God's
children.

If we are not proclaiming the true Gospel, then it has no power to save.

"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." – JOHN 15:19



2

LOOK TO THE SOURCE OF TRUTH.

When we encounter hard teachings, it's tempting to twist God's Word to fit our preferences. But instead of allowing our emotions to dictate what we believe is right, we must instead submit to the only standard that is time-tested, authoritative, and true: the Bible.

For instance, when you're tempted to believe our culture's assertions that Jesus was just a teacher or one of many ways to God, remember the bold claims Christ Himself made:

10 CLAIMS OF CHRIST

"I am God's Son" (John 10:36).

"I came from the Father" (John 16:28).

"Before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58).

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" (John 10:9).

"I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6a).

"No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6b).

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25a).

"The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25b).

"I am [the Messiah]" (Mark 14:61-62).

"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character . . . for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." - ACTS 17:11



3

BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS.

Whatever teaching we encounter, we must test it against God's Word (1 John 4:1-6). Here are four questions that

will help you understand why you might be having "red flags" about a particular book, song, or sermon.



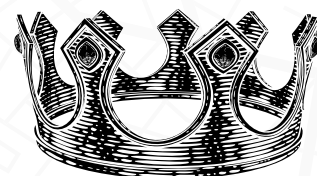
Does it confess the authority of the Bible?

Does it acknowledge the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ?



How is God defined or portrayed?

Is Christ or man the center of this theology?



COMMON FALSE TEACHINGS IN TODAY'S CHURCHES

THE THEOLOGY	THE LIE	THE TRUTH
Progressive "Christianity"	"The only certain truth is that there is no certainty . Every teaching of Scripture should be held loosely. True humility demands that we be vague about what we believe . We must interpret the Bible in the most accepting way possible ."	God's Word gives us strength to run with confidence, not walk in confusion (just look at the armor of God listed in Ephesians 6:13-18). We can be sure about our faith , and we must choose to read the Bible with an attitude of obedience to the authority of God's Word because we want to know what God's Word says so we can obey God. Jesus holds us accountable for discerning Truth (Matthew 22:31; Mark 11:17; 12:26; John 10:34).
Pluralism	"At our core, we all believe the same thing . No one is wrong; no one's religion is the exclusive source of truth . We can all get along."	Christ will one day judge every person on the basis of whether he has believed in Christ as Savior (Romans 2:8-12). Jesus is the only name by which we will be saved (Acts 4:12).
Social Justice Gospel	"The most important work of the church is to pursue justice and stand up for the poor, oppressed, and marginalized ."	Christians are called to serve others and seek the peace and prosperity of society (Mark 10:42-45; Proverbs 11:10), but not in lieu of proclaiming the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ . When we share the Gospel, we are doing all we can to meet a person's most dire need (Matthew 10:28).
The Hyper-Grace Movement	"Confession and repentance of sin are not necessary because we are eternally forgiven. And because we are already perfected in Christ, there is no need for holy living ."	If we love God, we will obey Him (John 14), and we need His grace every day as we work out our faith with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). Works cannot save, but they are the evidence of our faith as we seek to honor God with our lives (James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:13-25).
The Emergent Church	"In order to reach a postmodern society, we must adapt to become culturally relevant . In order to love people, we must accept their life-styles. Doctrine is divisive; our individual experiences are more important."	The Gospel does not need new marketing (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). We are to preach Truth, not accommodate itching ears (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
New Age Spirituality	"All our troubles stem from the fact that we have forgotten our own divinity. By seeking a higher consciousness, we can awaken god in us ."	The troubles we experience are the result of our rejection of the one, true God (Romans 1:18-25). But thanks be to God! He has made a way to redeem us from such futile thinking, sending His own Son to ransom us at the cross (John 3:16; Mark 10:45).
The Prosperity Gospel	"God wants us to be physically well and materially blessed . If Christians are sick, suffering, or poor, it is because of sin or a lack of faith."	Jesus has promised us suffering in this world —but He has told us to take heart; He has overcome the world (John 16:33). All our suffering pales in comparison to the inheritance awaiting us in heaven (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). And even now we experience abundant life through Christ with a peace that transcends understanding (Philippians 4:4-7).

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“Interpreting the Bible is not a matter of picking and choosing, but of exploring and understanding. . . . The Bible will make us uncomfortable. We won’t like everything it says. We will have to wrestle with it and learn how to apply its timeless principles to the times in which we live.”

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4

SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

As you share the wonder of God's love displayed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, remember:

- 1** **PRAY BEFORE SPEAKING.** Ask for God's help and direction as you engage in meaningful conversation.

"Lord, grant me joy and peace as I communicate the wonder of Your love so that Your Gospel might shine forth despite my inadequate words. Thank You for using me to proclaim Your Gospel."

- 2** **INVITE PEOPLE INTO CONVERSATION.** When you ask them questions, they will naturally return the favor as you first listen respectfully to their ideas.

"Who do you think Jesus was?"

- 3** **FOLLOW 1 CORINTHIANS 13.** Speak with patience, kindness, and humility.

"When I first began to know Jesus, I felt new and free. Then, as I grew in faith, I realized Jesus had demands for my life that were hard to accept but were ultimately for my good and the good of those around me. Is there something keeping you from wanting to know Him?"

- 4** **REMEMBER THAT THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS!**

"My heart has been completely changed by Jesus Christ! I am more loving, more peaceable, more joyful, and I have the hope of heaven! Would you like to know why?"

"The Lord is able to keep you from falling. He has called you and chosen you, and He will not let you go. Make sure you don't let go of Him."

- MICHAEL YOUSSEF, SAVING CHRISTIANITY?

Lord, may we have proper awe of You
that we might stand firm in faith
on the strong foundation You've
graciously given us—Your Word.



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