

When Is Truth True? Christ and the Counterfeits



Foreword When Is Truth True?

The question “**When is Truth, True?**” is not merely philosophical; it is theological and existential. In an age saturated with competing claims, slogans, and “lived experiences,” many assume truth is relative, constructed, or instrumental—true when it serves a purpose, true for me but not for you, or true because it is widely repeated. Scripture rejects this. Truth is not true because it is believed, useful, popular, or politically convenient. It is true because it corresponds to reality as God has made and revealed it, and because it is grounded in the character and self-disclosure of the living God. Jesus Christ, who is Himself “the way, and the truth, and the life” (**John 14:6**), stands as the measure against which every claim must be tested. **This essay traces the history of deception, examines contemporary forms of falsehood that masquerade as truth, and returns to the biblical affirmation that Christ is the author and embodiment of truth.**

History of Deception and False Truths

Deception is as old as the human story, and it has never been limited to outright lies. From the beginning, it has also taken the form of false truths—claims that sound plausible, contain elements of fact, or appeal to desire, yet ultimately contradict the reality God has spoken. In the garden, the serpent did not begin with an obvious falsehood. He began with a subtle distortion: “Did God actually say...?” (**Genesis 3:1**). The strategy was to plant doubt, reframe God’s command, and offer an alternative “truth” that promised autonomy and enlightenment. What was presented as liberating insight was a counterfeit that contradicted what God had said. Eve and Adam accepted it, and the result was alienation, shame, and death. From that moment, the human

condition has included a propensity both to exchange “the truth about God for a lie” (**Romans 1:25**) and to embrace false truths that feel more attractive than God’s word.

Throughout redemptive history, the pattern repeats in both pure deception and the promotion of false truths. False prophets spoke “peace” when there was no peace (**Jeremiah 6:14; Ezekiel 13:10**), offering a comforting message that looked like truth but was false because it ignored God’s judgment. The people of Israel were repeatedly warned against trusting in their own understanding or in the smooth words of those who flattered them (**Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 30:10**). What sounded wise or reassuring was often a false truth that led to ruin. Religious leaders in Jesus’ day “nullify the word of God” by their traditions (**Mark 7:13**); they presented human rules as faithful observance while emptying God’s actual commands of their force. Jesus also warned of false christs and false prophets who would perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (**Matthew 24:24**). The deception would be effective precisely because it would look like divine confirmation of a false message.

The apostle Paul describes those who “suppress the truth by their wickedness” (**Romans 1:18**). They do not always invent total fabrications; they often hold down, distort, or replace the truth with versions of reality that better serve human desire, power, or preference. **Because they refuse to love the truth**, God gives them over to a strong delusion so that they believe what is false (**2 Thessalonians 2:10–12**). In every age, deception and **false truths thrive wherever God’s revealed word is subordinated to human reason, cultural consensus, political advantage, or personal preference**. What is offered as enlightened, compassionate, progressive, or traditional may in fact be a false truth—partially accurate in its details yet fundamentally opposed to the truth God

Current False Truths

a. Media agenda truth

Much contemporary media does not primarily report what is; **it advances a narrative about what people should believe**. Selective framing, omission, loaded language, and elevating certain voices while silencing others create an appearance of consensus that often diverges from observable reality. Scripture anticipates this: “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness” (**Isaiah 5:20**). When media outlets treat partial or distorted accounts as settled truth because they advance an ideological goal, they function as modern false prophets. The biblical standard remains: “You shall not bear false witness” (**Exodus 20:16**) and “the truth will set you free” (**John 8:32**)—not the narrative that is most convenient or most profitable.

b. Truth is not their client, legal

In some legal and institutional settings, **a lawyer’s or official’s main job is not to find out what is true**, but to protect their client’s or the organization’s interests. This can be acceptable in a system where both sides present their case. It becomes harmful, however, when the system is treated as the final judge of what is true, or when winning a case is treated as the same as being right.

Jesus rebuked religious leaders who made rules heavy for others while ignoring justice, mercy, and faithfulness (**Matthew 23:4, 23**). Today, legal and bureaucratic processes are sometimes used to redefine reality. For example, they may declare that biological sex does not matter, or that certain speech is harmful simply because it disagrees with popular opinion. The result is an official version of untruth.

Scripture says that God “desires truth in the inward being” (**Psalms 51:6**). It also teaches that rulers and laws are accountable to a higher standard than their own rules (**Romans 13:1–4; Acts 5:29**).

c. Dishonest truth

Perhaps the most insidious form is the “**honest lie**”—statements that are technically accurate in isolation yet deliberately misleading in context, or half-truths offered to deceive. The serpent’s words in Eden were not wholly false; they contained elements of fact twisted toward a false end. Today this appears in selective statistics, decontextualized quotations, emotional appeals that bypass evidence, and the claim that subjective feeling constitutes objective reality. Proverbs warns, “A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful” (**Proverbs 14:25**) and “Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord” (**Proverbs 12:22**). Paul commands, “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor” (**Ephesians 4:25**). Dishonest truth is especially dangerous because it wears the clothing of candor while serving self-interest or power.

d. False Narratives of Liberal Woke Theology

Some progressive Christian teachings present a false version of truth by reshaping the Bible to fit today’s cultural ideas about identity, fairness, and acceptance. These views often sound kind and inclusive, **but they change what Scripture actually says.**

On human identity, some teach that gender is something a person chooses rather than something God created. The Bible says God made people male and female (**Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4**). On sexuality, progressive teachings often say same-sex relationships are fully acceptable for Christians. The New Testament, however, describes homosexual practice as contrary to God’s design and calls people to turn from it (**Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11**).

On sin and salvation, some redefine sin mainly as unfair systems or privilege instead of personal rebellion against God. They may downplay the cross, treating it more as a sign of standing with the oppressed than as the place where Jesus paid for sin (**1 John 2:2; Romans 3:25**). The gospel then becomes a message of social change rather than the good news that forgiveness and new life come through faith in Jesus alone (**Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8–9**).

These false teachings often use words like “justice” and “love,” but they change what those words mean. In the Bible, justice comes from God’s perfect character and right standards (**Micah 6:8**). Love does not approve of what is wrong; it rejoices in what is true (**1 Corinthians 13:6**). When popular opinions are allowed to replace what God has said, the result is not a better

faith but a false one that trades “the truth about God for a lie” (**Romans 1:25**). Christians are called to examine every teaching carefully and stay true to the faith given in Scripture (**1 John 4:1; Jude 3**), instead of being pulled along by every new idea (**Ephesians 4:14**).

Scripture Reveals That Christ Is the Author of Truth

Against every counterfeit stands the person and work of Jesus Christ. He does not merely teach truth; **He is the Truth**. “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (**John 14:6**). Before Pilate He declared, “For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (**John 18:37**). The Word through whom all things were made (**John 1:1–3**) is the same Word who became flesh and “dwelt among us... full of grace and truth” (**John 1:14**).

Because truth is personal and relational in Christ, it is also objective and reliable. God’s word is truth (**John 17:17**). The Spirit of truth guides believers into all truth (**John 16:13**). Those who abide in Christ’s word know the truth and are set free by it (**John 8:31–32**). This freedom is not the license to define reality for oneself, but liberation from the bondage of deception, sin, and self-justification. The church is called to be “the pillar and foundation of the truth” (**1 Timothy 3:15**), speaking the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**) rather than conforming to the age’s shifting standards (**Romans 12:2**).

Conclusion Jesus is the Truth

Truth is true when it matches what God has made and said, when it agrees with the character of the God who cannot lie (**Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18**), and when it is centered on Jesus Christ. From the very beginning, the world has lied. In the Garden of Eden, the serpent, Satan, twisted God’s words and offered a false truth that promised freedom while leading to death (**Genesis 3:1–5; Revelation 12:9**). He remains the author of lies and deception, and the ruler of this world’s falsehoods (**John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4**). Whether the lies and deception are old or new, pushed by media, used in legal systems, or spoken in personal dishonesty, they fail because they stand against the One who is Truth. In a culture that treats truth as something people can invent or use for their own purposes, Scripture remains clear: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (**Hebrews 13:8**). To know Him is to know the truth that lasts, sets people free, and judges every false claim. **Therefore, turn to Jesus Christ and abide in His Word. He alone is the Truth, and His Word alone reveals the truth that endures.**

