



[1] How Can I Know What's True? | September 28, 2014

The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever staggered the imagination of man
—and the dogma is the drama.
Dorothy Sayers
Letters to a Diminished Church: Passionate Arguments for the Relevance of Christian Doctrine

We're starting an 8-week study of key Christian doctrines. What is doctrine? A set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true.

A few weeks ago we asked your opinion on this quote from A. W. Tozer:

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

[Q] Why is our belief about God the most important? How does what you believe about God affect *your* life?

Bible doctrine helps us...

- know what we believe
- know why we believe it
- believe what we know
- act on what we believe

[Q] How does knowing what *you* believe help *other* people according to 1 Peter 3:15?

Who's Authority?

[Q] Discuss: How do people in general decide what is true and what is false? What do they rely on?

Their own reasoning ability
Science
Government
Religion
God's Word
Church
Other people (parent, author, celebrity, etc.)

[Q] How does someone decide which authority to trust?

Two of Satan's weapons against truth are relativism and subjectivism.

- Relativism is the assumption that different things are true or right for different people or at different times.

- Subjectivism allows a person to determine what is right and wrong according to their own feelings, without submitting to any authority.

[Q] How do you see these two weapons being used by Satan in our society today?

Truth Claims

[Q] Read the following verses and note who and/or what truth is.

[Isaiah 45:19](#); [John 17:17](#)

[John 16:13](#)

[John 14:6](#)

[Q] What would a relativist or a subjectivist (see above) say to these claims?

[Q] What is God's purpose for truth in [1 John 5:20](#)?

[Q] What action is required to know truth in [John 8:31-32, 36](#)? What is the result of knowing truth?

[Q] Share with the group: how has the truth of Christ has set you free from those things that have held you captive?

- Thank God for His wonderful grace through Christ that has set you free from lies and the darkness of sin.
- Ask God to show you more of His truth as we study together in the coming weeks.
- Read: Ephesians 1:18: *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,* (NIV)

Who are you praying Ephesians 1:18 for?
