

Sermon Series: Seven
2 – Walk in Truth
Proverbs 6:16-19

Proverbs 12:22 – “The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.”

1. How did Shay frame the modern battle for truth?

Answer: Understanding our modern cultural context: Absolute truth of Judeo-Christian revelation vs. Secularism - truth is situational, there are multiple realities

2. In what ways do you experience this modern cultural battle for truth?

3. Ted and others on our teaching team have shared with us before, “He who frames the question wins the debate.”

How does framing truth primarily as a body of knowledge, a set of beliefs, rather than a person (Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life), enable us as humans to so easily fall into idolatry and explain away Scripture?

Answer: Whenever we can *depersonalize* a concept, it is easier to accept a lie in place of the truth. By framing truth primarily as body of knowledge or set of beliefs, modern humans have a pretty easy time dismissing truth [Oh, that’s what you believe, but those aren’t my beliefs. Let’s just agree to disagree.] However, if we frame the question of truth as a Person, asking each other and others to respond to a living God who is *Truth*, we make ourselves and others personally responsible to that Person.

4. Why does God detest lying lips and why is the truth so important?

Answer: Part 1 - History repeats itself, so whether in New Testament times or today, if we fail to look to the Lord God as our source of Life and Truth, with the purpose of living for God’s kingdom, rather than ourselves as part of the fallen and corrupt world system, then we are guilty of denying the truth for a lie, which is IDOLATRY.

Shay explained it this way:

There is the **Ground Floor Level:** When we produce lies we worship and serve ourselves as we seek to hide our failures, mistakes, and sins [instead of coming into the light and acknowledging our sin and receiving mercy and grace from God].

Then there is the **30,000-ft. view** [truth]: When we produce lies we worship and serve false gods. Instead of worshipping the Lord our God.

Exodus 20:5 – “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me...”

Review the following Scripture verses which address the base sin of idolatry and then tackle **Question 5:** What part of the created order (world system) competes for your attention over devotion to the Lord and His kingdom?

Romans 1:25 – “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”

John 15:19 – “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.”

1 John 2:15-17 – “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

1 John 3:1 – “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

The Lord is the light of the world.

1 John 1:5 – “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

Satan is the father of lies and the author of fear

John 8:44 – “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

5. Shay spoke about needing *intelligence reports* before entering combat versus our enemy.

Read the following intelligence report on Satan and then answer the follow-up question.

Intelligence Briefing on Satan

Satan is the one who robs us, he’s a thief. John 10:10

Satan is out to devour us. 1 Peter 5:8

Satan is a murderer. John 8:44

Satan’s strategy is revealed in Genesis 3 and Matthew 4:

Casting doubt on the nature of God

*Eve was lied to by Satan in Genesis 3

*Jesus was lied to by Satan in Matthew 4 - to tempt God - Psalm 91 back to back verses used by Satan and the Lord God from Psalm 91:12-13

6. How does knowing who our enemy is and how he works prepare us for battle?

Answer: We know we must be equipped for a spiritual battle, as we don’t wrestle against mere flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of darkness.

7. How do we walk in truth?

Gift of the Holy Spirit - Jesus indwells believers by the Holy Spirit

Walk in humility, knowing it is by the grace of God our identity is a citizen of God’s kingdom and one of his children.

Colossians 1:12-14 – “And giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Saturate your heart and mind in truth - and remember Truth is a person, the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice how Paul reminds us of this in Romans 7, framing the question as *“Who will rescue me?”*, not what.

Romans 7:24-25: **“24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Psalms 1 - Read this psalm to see how those planted by God and live by His word flourish. With the Holy Spirit as our guide we walk in humility and soak in God’s Word daily.

By belonging to and living in God’s kingdom community on the earth, the church.

Ephesians 2:19-22 – **“19** Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **21** In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Ephesians 3:7-11 – **“7** I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. **8** Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, **9** and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. **10** His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **11** according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It is the church who makes known the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers. The church, the people of God, when living by God’s kingdom life, (*“As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”* John 6:57 KJV), we become the change in the world which the world needs.

By living by God’s very own life, we bear His image in the earth and communicate that His kingdom is both now and future. When we live by God’s life and exhibit His nature and life in this world as his holy community, we display to spiritual forces of darkness and the current prince of this world, Satan, what the world looks like when God is calling the shots and running the show (love, truth, righteousness, humility, caring for each other, helping one another, building each other up, etc.). The church displays **now** what the **future** rule of God will look like when the earth is restored to His full kingdom rule.