

THE DUAL NATURE OF TRUTH

(Paihia Family Church - 30/5/90 - EKB)

Truth in God's Word is presented to us in two ways:

- a. as **absolute statements** of truth, such as Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day, *1Cor 15:3*.
- b. as truth that is found in a **balance between two apparently, opposing points of view**.

Most Biblical truth, as it applies to our Christian life and experience, is of the second category, i.e. **truth in a balance between two apparently opposite ideas**. Both of the poles of a truth are taught in God's Word. Both are equally valid. Both must be understood and held as truth. The truth in any particular situation is obtained by holding both extremes in a balance as directed by the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Many divisions in the Body of Christ occur because only one pole of truth is believed and held to, while the other pole of truth is denied. Truth is almost always in a balance.

Examples of truth in a balance:

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| 1. God's sovereignty
<i>Eph 1:4,5,11, Jn 6:44</i> | 1. man's free will, <i>Jn 3:15,16, Deut 30:19, Josh 24:15, Ac 2:38</i> |
| 2. Pray once and believe
<i>Mk 11:24, 1Jn 5:14,15</i> | 2. Keep on praying
<i>Lk 18:1-8, Lk 11:9,10</i> |
| 3. Support the needy
<i>1Jn 3:17, Gal 6:2</i> | 3. Everyone should work and support themselves. <i>2Thes 3:8,10, Gal 6:5</i> |
| 4. We have been made new creatures in Christ, old things have passed away, all things have become new
<i>2Cor 5:17</i> . | 4. We need to appropriate what Christ has done for us by faith and enter into it.
<i>2Cor 7:1, Eph 4:22-24</i> |
| 5. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, not by works
<i>Rom 3:28, Rom 4:2-5, Eph 2:8,9</i> | 5. Faith without works is dead. Saving faith must produce good works
<i>Jam 2:14-26</i> |
| 6. We are all equal before the Lord as brethren, <i>Mat 23:8, 1Pet 2:9</i> | 6. God gives various gifts and positions of responsibility and authority as He chooses. <i>1Cor 12:28, 1Thes 5:12</i> |
| 7. God is the God of love and mercy
<i>Jn 3:16, 1Jn 4:7-11, Tit 3:5</i> | 7. God is the God of judgment and holiness
<i>2Cor 5:10, Rev 20:11-15</i> |
| 8. God is the God of abundant grace
<i>2Cor 9:8, Eph 2:8</i> | 8. God requires obedience to all His commands, <i>1Cor 9:21, Mat 7:24, Lk 8:21, Jn 14:15,21,24, Jn 13:34,35</i> |
| 9. In Christ we are in a place of rest and peace, <i>Mat 11:28, Jn 14:27</i> | 9. God requires of us faithful labour and service, <i>Mat 24:45-51, Gal 6:9, Col 1:29</i> |
| 10. There is no good in the flesh
<i>Rom 7:18</i> | 10. We are fearfully and wonderfully made
<i>Ps 139:14</i> |
| 11. The heart of man is deceitful
<i>Jer 17:9</i> | 11. We are made in the image of God
<i>Gen 1:27, 1Cor 11:7</i> |
| 12. God subdues our iniquities
<i>Mic 7:19, Ps 130:8, Ezk 36:25-27, 1Jn 1:9</i> | 12. Purify yourself from sin
<i>Gal 5:24, 1Jn 3:3, 2Tim 2:21, Jam 4:8, 2Cor 7:1</i> |

When you find a division in the Body of Christ over doctrine or teaching, search out the full teaching of God's Word on the topic. I have observed over the years that usually "both parties are right" in a dispute over doctrine, at least in some measure. The trouble comes when we polarise our views at one end of a truth teaching and exclude the balance scripture.