



CAPITOL[®] COMMISSION

Truth or Consequences

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Freddy Davis / 850-383-9756 / freddy.davis@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org/florida



In modern culture, the concept of truth has taken a beating. For some reason, a postmodern philosophy has come to dominate the thinking of a large percentage of people in our culture.

Postmodernism is the belief that there is no such thing as objective reality. Instead the approach is that every person can construct their own reality. With that way of thinking, what is real for you may not be real for me. That would be fine if it were an accurate picture of the world we live in. But it is not. There actually is such a thing as truth and reality, and anything not aligned with that is fantasy. Many people live

life pretending that their imagination represents actual reality when it simply does not.

While Postmodernism is a fairly recent philosophy, the underlying idea that people are able to ignore true reality has been around since the beginning. One very prominent example in the Bible occurred at Jesus' trial when he was being questioned by Pilate. The exchange went like this:

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out ... John 18:37-38

Interestingly, Pilate was confronted with the truth and even acknowledged, in that confrontation, that there is such a thing as truth. But he refused to face the implications of that fact and simply walked away. He was more interested in maintaining his political control than he was in truth and justice.

There are many reasons why people turn their back on truth. For some it is a deliberate attempt to simply get their way regardless of the legitimacy of their position. For others it is a means of avoiding accountability for an immoral lifestyle. And then there are the ones who are true believers in a religion or philosophy which ultimately doesn't represent the truth.

There is such a thing as an actual way reality is structured, and only the beliefs associated with that are the truth. The reason this matters is that getting connected with actual truth is the only way human beings can ultimately know eternity with God. For that reason, those who serve in government, in particular, need to know the truth, live by the truth and lead in ways which incorporate truth into the culture. When we walk away from it, like Pilate did, the result is injustice, harm to society and separation from God. But when we live by the truth, we see justice, a thriving society and connection with God.

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