

***Sunday***  
***July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020***

***Crisis Creates***

***Crisis Creates  
Courage***

***Crisis Creates  
Conflict***

***Crisis Creates  
Questions***

**WHAT**

**ANSWERS  
GROUNDED**

**&**

**IN FAITH  
AND HOPE**

**WHY**

WHAT

1 PETER

&

3:13-15

WHY

# WHAT & WHY

I Peter 3:14-16

**14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

**15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.



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...the quality or state of being true.

**Truth is that which is in accordance with fact or reality.**



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***Is there any absolute truth,  
and if there is,  
where does it come from?***

*Does*

**Essence precede Existence**

*or does*

**Existence precede Essence?**

# Essence

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is the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, especially something abstract, that determines its character.

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**Greek- aletheia**: truth, but not merely truth as spoken; truth of idea, reality, sincerity, truth in the moral sphere, divine truth revealed to man, straightforwardness...

**a propositional truth that leaves the individual to either accept or reject but does not forfeit its content as absolute.**

# “What is truth?”

## *Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776*

We hold these **truths** to be self evident,

- that all men are created equal,
- that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,

among these are

Life,

Liberty,

and the pursuit of Happiness.

**“What is truth?”**

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**John 18:33-40**

**It is the existential question  
of every generation.**

# “What is truth?”

## John 18:33-40

**33** So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

**34** Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"

**35** Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"

**36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

**37** Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. 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."

**38** Pilate said to him, "What is **truth**?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."

**39** But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

**40** They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

# **“What is truth?”**

**John 14:1-6**

**It is personified as  
an essential and exclusive  
characteristic  
of the divine.**

# “What is truth?”

## John 14:1-6

- 1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
- 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- 4 And you know the way to where I am going."
- 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"
- 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



# **“What is truth?”**

**John 8:31-36**

**It is the essence that guides a life of  
intrinsic meaning and purpose.**

# “What is truth?”

## John 8:31-36

**31** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him,

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

**32** and you will know **the truth**, and **the truth** will set you free."

**33** They answered Him,

"We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

**34** Jesus answered them,

"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

**35** The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

**36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

# **“What is truth?”**

**3 John 1:1-4**

**It is the confidence that  
‘reality is our friend’,  
and God’s reality is the  
blueprint for joy.**

# “What is truth?”

## 3 John 1:1-4

- 1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in **truth**.
- 2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.
- 3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your **truth**, as indeed you are walking in **the truth**.
- 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in **the truth**.

The source of absolute truth is rooted  
in the nature and character of God  
and is revealed and expressed  
in His person and in His creation.

When our experiences runs contrary to the nature and character of God, revealed and expressed in His person and in His creation, the conflict is rooted in our own personal brokenness.

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**The Essence of God is not only defined  
by His truth but also by His grace.**

# **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen His glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.