



THE LOST FOUNDATION: TRUTH

The Problem:

How we got here is the subject of another article (“The Day America Died”), but we are a nation that has been without a standard set of morals since the late 1950’s. Some families teach a set of inviolate values while others impart a code of situational ethics which are neither binding nor absolute (a tactful way of saying you make it up as you go!). Too often there is no specific set of values a child can build on as a foundation. The long-term result is what we experience in American society today; people do not generally evaluate their own actions in terms of right and wrong. Morality, when it is thought of at all, is determined by whether you can ‘get away with it’ and what it costs if you get caught.

One of the great foundational truths that has been lost to this ‘self-centric’ way of looking at the world, is truth. People who believe themselves to be honest will state rumors, gossip, and the unsubstantiated garbage found on social media as fact. Many don’t even think about whether something is true or not - blindly accepting whatever is thrown in front of them. Our political system is so far gone that the people we entrust with running the country have their own fancy phrase for lying – political rhetoric. Food products hide what is actually inside with fancy terms; marketers make ridiculously false claims just to get your attention; businesses post advertisements written to look like authoritative articles on the internet; sales flyers promise a world the retailer can’t deliver. Deception seems to have become accepted and truthful people are questioned and doubted. One of my favorite illustrations of the problem is a picture of Abraham Lincoln with the ‘quote’ “The trouble with the internet is that so much of what is found there is untrue”!

OK – we’ve highlighted the problem, so let’s look at what truth is. We’ll only need a few short, direct statements to describe it.

Truth Is:

Truth is absolute:

- 📖 Truth is Complete – it doesn’t need anything added to it or taken away
- 📖 Truth is Unchanging – it is not altered by personality, situation, time, societal trends, or world events
- 📖 Truth is Universal – it applies to everyone equally; no matter who you are, where you are or when you are.

Truth is not dependent on YOU:

- 📖 It isn’t true because you believe it
- 📖 It isn’t false because you don’t believe it
- 📖 Truths that you don’t know about are still true!
- 📖 Truths that you do not comprehend are still true!

Truth is the foundation of all relationships:

- 📖 In any relationship, a lie/falsehood/deception brings destruction to every area associated with the untruth; they are now dead and unconnected until the lie is corrected. This occurs whether the lie is discovered or not.
- 📖 Lies do not come in sizes or colors; they are not big or small, white, gray or black.
- 📖 ‘Good intentions’ do not alter the result of untruth.
- 📖 The receiver acts on a falsehood as if it were true – generally to their own detriment.
- 📖 Once falsehood enters a relationship, the liar cannot by any means or action of their own restore trust. Only a decision to ‘forgive and forget’ by the victim can do that.

The hardest person to be honest with is yourself:

- 📖 We do not face things honestly to avoid pain and save face.
- 📖 We exude confidence or happiness on the outside when the inside is a disaster.
- 📖 We don’t even want our close friends to see it.
- 📖 A person comes to believe untrue things if they tell themselves enough.
 ⚡ IE: “WOW! You look great!” “No I don’t”
- 📖 If a person tells a lie enough it becomes a part of them and they eventually believe it.
- 📖 Lying to yourself, deliberate or not, erodes your self-image (you know even if no one else does).



THE LOST FOUNDATION: TRUTH

Truth versus falsehood is always *your* choice:

- 📖 There is no such thing as a neutral action
 - ✚ All truths are beneficial, even if painful at the time
 - ✚ All lies are destructive, even if it seems to be ok at the time
- 📖 No situation exists which requires you to lie
- 📖 Jobs, positions, employers, etc. CANNOT require you to lie
- 📖 Intentional deception is a lie.

The difference between Truth and fact

- 📖 Truth and fact are not the same thing, and may not be related
- 📖 Facts relate to the physical world and can usually be tested, quantified, 'proven', and explained
 - ✚ Science is based on fact;
 - ✚ all facts are based on assumptions (which may or may not be correct)
 - ✚ Scripture - God has ordered creation to confound the "wise"
 - ✚ 'facts' are subject to change as the results of physical observations change
- 📖 Truth relates to both the physical and nonphysical (spiritual) world, cannot be physically measured, and often defies explanation
 - ✚ Life is based on truth
 - ✚ Truth often cannot be proven as fact but can be proven by experience
(“I love you”) (“ I am your friend”)
 - ✚ Man cannot change truth. All truth was/is established by God.