

It Is Written

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"What Is Truth?"

By Ken Weliever

"What is truth?" asked Pilate in his now-famous question to Jesus at His trial.

Commentators, preachers, and philosophers have discussed and debated Pilate's motive behind the question. Was he sincere? Just jesting? Responding cynically? Barclay suggested "he asked the question wistfully and wearily." Obviously, we will never know.

But we do know this. The Roman Procurator is faced with the most difficult decision of his life. He's in the presence of an innocent man. And he knows it.

In these ten verses, Pilate asks six questions trying to find some way to release Jesus. It's apparent Pilate didn't understand Jesus, His kingdom, His kingship or the nature of spiritual Truth. Yet, after talking to Jesus, he concludes, "I find no fault in Him at all."

This is somewhat remarkable because history records that Pilate was a cruel man. Tactless. Stubborn. Censorious. Demanding. Self-justifying. Tyrannical. And disrespectful of religion. Pilate was everything that Jesus wasn't.

However, Pilate ultimately took the course of less resistance under the pressure of the people. He was afraid of losing favor with the Emperor and being branded a traitor. He was a pragmatist and governed with self-interest. Crucifying Christ was expedient. And, he was self-deceived as he tried to pass the buck and shift blame to the Jews alone.

"What is truth?" You wonder if Pilate ever thought about that conversion and question again. Especially after the resurrection.

Ironically he stood before the One who was the epitome of Truth. Jesus had proclaimed just hours earlier, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn. 14:6).

"What is truth?" sarcastically questions our unbelieving world today. Religiously speaking most folks think that truth is difficult to define. Elusive. Relative. And highly individualistic. People say, "Well, that's my truth." As if truth is ambiguous and subjective.

The conservative Columnist, Cal Thomas, has often observed that our society "is a falling away from the notion of objective Truth." In one column he wrote, "our social fabric is coming apart because few will articulate Truth for fear of being branded a bigot."

This is something gospel preachers have been saying for years. And sadly, we are seeing this more and more among those claiming to be Christians.

Spiritual lives are being shattered, and souls stand in jeopardy because of failure to believe, embrace and stand for Truth.

Of course, the religious division in the world contributes to this problem. If those claiming to love Jesus and believe in the Bible, can't agree, how can anyone else know what is truth?

The answer lies in moving away from the creeds of men, the doctrines of denominations, and the opinions of popular preachers, and returning to the simplicity of God's Word. His revealed Truth.

It also demands that we subjugate our own personal feelings. What seems right and reasonable to us may well be wrong in God's eyes. Too often, however, we're only looking for what pleases us. C. S. Lewis expressed it this way: "If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth, only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair."

The Bible speaks plainly about sin, salvation, and sanctification. It is our guide to Christian living. To morality and ethics. To experience a personal relationship with God. And to guide us home to heaven.

What is Truth? Jesus forever answered the question in His prayer to the Father prior to his arrest. "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (Jn. 17:17).

Whose Body Is It?

By Jarrod Jacobs

Those who favor abortions often argue something like this: "It is the woman's body and she can choose to do with it what she pleases." This is not a logical argument nor is it Biblically sound. Why do I say this?

First, let us remember that when a woman is pregnant, what she is carrying is a separate body from hers. It is not a growth or a tumor. It is not an "unviable tissue mass". In addition to the Bible saying she is carrying a baby, ultrasounds, sonograms, and the like show that the unborn baby has a separate heartbeat from its mother. We know the baby has a separate respiratory system, as well as a separate digestive system, endocrine system, nervous system, and other body systems. The baby often has a separate blood type from his mother. How is it then that one can say confidently that the baby inside a mother is merely an extension of the mother's body? When Rebekah was pregnant with twins, God said she had "children" in her. Prophetically, God called them "two nations" (Gen. 25:21-24). David proclaimed, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Ps. 139:14).

"Doctor" Luke (Col. 4:14) spoke of John inside his mother and used the term "brephos" in Luke 1:44 which means an unborn child or unborn infant. The verse states that this "brephos" was in Elizabeth's womb! Luke knew the difference between a tumor and a baby and used the term (by inspiration, II Tim. 3:16) which meant baby to describe unborn or preborn John. When Mary was carrying Christ, Luke noted a time when she was "great with child" (Lk. 2:5). Notice, she did not have a cyst or some growth to be excised. She was carrying a child. Furthermore, when Luke writes, we see him using the same terminology for unborn children as he did for the children who were born! They were human children!

When women say, "This is my body and I can do with it what I please," they are wrong. First, they are wrong because men's and women's bodies belong to God, not to self (I Cor. 6:19-20). Our bodies are to be considered special. Secondly, they are wrong because while we recognize that yes, the baby is inside the mother's body, a baby in the womb is not a female body part! Thus, she cannot simply "do with it as she pleases"!

Let us understand that any argument offered in favor of abortion is an argument to justify murder, specifically infanticide. When someone says, "It's my body" or says, "Protect my reproductive rights", she is saying that an unborn child has no rights and only deserves to live if the mother decides the child should live. Some have gone so far as to say that having an abortion (killing) is a decision between a woman and her doctor. To this, I ask, what if the baby she is carrying is a girl? Does the girl not get a "woman's right to choose" also? I wonder what the baby's choice would be? Have you noticed that all those in favor of abortion are already born?

We need to listen to God. When God told us not to murder others, He meant all humans (Ex. 20:13; Rom. 13:9)! We still cringe and wince when thinking of the "death of the innocents" that took place in Exodus 1-2 and Matthew 2, as well as other times in history when babies were ripped from their mother's arms and killed. Do we not see a cruel irony that many women today are arguing for the "right" to voluntarily kill their babies? The unborn are made in God's image and loved by Him (Gen. 1:26-27; Jn. 3:16). Human life needs to be respected and not destroyed! We cheapen human life by destroying it! God made humans in His image, and this means humans in all stages of life. A pregnant woman is carrying a human (like begets like, Gen. 1) and thus she needs to respect this life. Don't fall for the lie that says, "It's my body and I can do with it what I please." Remember, that baby has a body, too. Does it not get a choice?