

## The Balanced Life (Part 3) You Can Handle the Truth

John 8:31-32

**Introduction:** Whether you saw the movie or not, you probably know the famous statement, "*You can't handle the truth!*" which comes from a scene in the movie "A Few Good Men" (1992). It is a famous line, made famous by a great movie. But unlike the movies, and unfortunately today, we are living in a culture that either cannot handle the truth, and in some cases, even, mishandles the truth, and in the worst cases doesn't want to rightly handle the truth. *That is even true when it comes to the church.*

Today we are going to look into a small part of a long conversation that Jesus had through some people who needed to hear the truth about truth. In just two sentences, Jesus said there is such a thing as truth and not just "a" truth, but "the" truth. What Jesus said about "the" truth tells us *three things we must always do with truth.*

### I. We must affirm the truth:

#### A. Listen carefully to what Jesus said, (John 8:32, NIV)

1. **Jesus didn't just say you will know "a" truth**, but you will know "the" truth.
  - a. **The Lord Jesus said there is truth that is absolute and unchanging.**
  - b. **He is clearly stating here**, there are truths that are true for everyone, everywhere at every place and at every time *and you can know the truth.*
2. **Sin is not the only reason that Jesus came into the world.**
  - a. **It was truth that brought Jesus into the world.** (Jn 18:37)
  - b. **And where is this truth found?** (Jn 17:17)
    1. **Jesus said that God's word is the ultimate, absolute truth** and it has to be,

Because if it is the Word of God, then it is what God says. (Now it's important we see and understand this...)

#### B. What God says is truth because God cannot lie. (Titus 1:2) God does not say something because it is true; *a thing is true because God says it.*

1. **Without truth, lasting morality is impossible.**
2. **If something is morally right, it has to be morally right for everyone.** If something is morally wrong, it must be morally wrong for everyone. *This is so important that you can't miss it.*

#### C. If ultimate truth comes from God, it can never change because God never changes. (Heb. 13:8)

#### D. What is truly truth never changes.

What is true is not only true yesterday, today, and forever, but it is true for you, it is true for me, and it is true for all of us.

### II. We must accept the truth:

#### A. Jesus said, "*You will know the truth...*" (Jn 8:32)

1. **The word "Know"** there doesn't just mean to know in your head; it means to accept it into your heart.

- a. **It is one thing** to know what that truth is in your head.
  - b. **It is a totally different thing** to accept it with your heart. That is where the battle rages in our culture today.
2. **The buzz word of the day today is not truth; it is tolerance.**
    - a. **We are to be tolerant of the attitudes, actions, and assertions anyone makes** even if we can prove those are wrong according to truth.
    - b. **Now, I want to make it very plain.** When it comes to the way we treat other people personally. We should never be intolerant, bigoted, or arrogant.

#### B. Intolerance is really a great thing. (Let me explain...)

1. There is no room for tolerance in the chemical laboratory.
2. There is no room for tolerance in mathematics.
3. There is no room for tolerance in sports.
4. Yet, we are told that when it comes to the great moral issues of our day we ought to be tolerant.
5. The word is not tolerance; the word is truth.

*Believing something doesn't make it true. Belief is not what ultimately matters. Truth ultimately matters. By believing anything is true doesn't make it true. The Bible I preach from is not true because I believe it. I believe it and preach it because it is true.*

Jesus said, "*You shall. You must know the truth*" not to affirm there is truth, but to acknowledge, accept there is absolute truth.

### III. We must apply the truth:

#### A. In order to know the truth, the real truth, you have to know the One who is truth, who is Jesus. (Jn. 8:31)

1. **To hold to the teaching of Jesus means that you live it;** you put it into action.
2. **If truth is going to do in you and for you what it was meant to do**, you must live by the truth.
3. **Truth is useless**, even if you believe it if you do not live by it and apply it to your life.

#### B. That is what it means to know the truth and that is what Jesus meant when He said, (John 8:32)

1. **I was interested to learn that the word "absolute"** comes from two Latin words
  - a. **The word "ab"** meaning "from" and...
  - b. **The word "solvere"** meaning "to set free."
2. **So, the word "absolute" literally means** to "set free from."
3. **That is the purpose of truth** - to set us free.

**There is only One who has the power and the ability** to let anyone out of any prison you are in, and it is the One who said, "*I am the truth.*" Jesus said, "*I am the truth.*"

The only way you will ever know "the" truth is to know Jesus who is the truth. It is Jesus who is full of truth that holds the key to joy, to peace, to fulfillment, to satisfaction, to salvation, and eternal life. If you ever come to truly know Him personally, He will set you free. *That my friends, is the truth.*  
Not the truth for today – but "the" truth today, tomorrow and for all eternity.

