



## 1. Truth is a Core Behaviour of Honour



### Honor Code Oath

We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, (so help me God).

Air Force Academy

## 2. *Paul* highlights Truth (considering “Most Important” Things)

### The Way of Love

1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

1Co 13:2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1Co 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

1Co 13:4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

1Co 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

1Co 13:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, **but rejoices in the truth;**

1Co 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1Co 13:8 Love never fails.

**LOVE**  
IS PATIENT & KIND  
DOES NOT ENVY BOAST  
IT IS NOT PROUD  
IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS  
**IT IS SELF-SEEKING**  
**NOT** EASILY ANGERED  
KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS  
LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL  
BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH  
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 **ALWAYS** PROTECTS  
TRUSTS HOPES  
**LOVE NEVER FAILS**

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the **unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**.

### 3. Some Hollywood Depictions of the value of Truth

***Our lips are not perfumed, but they speak the truth.***

Yvonne De Carlo as Sephora (before becoming Moses' wife) in The Ten Commandments (1956)



***What is the Matrix?***

***It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.***

Laurence Fishburne as Morpheus in The Matrix (1999)

***Do you promise that the testimony you are about to give will be the Truth, the whole Truth, & Nothing but the Truth ... so help you God?***

Quote from “about a million” movies & TV shows

***What's more important than knowledge? (true information)***

***The things that make life worth living...you know, they can't be thought here.*** (pointing to head)

***They must be felt here.*** (pointing to heart)

Noah Wyle as Flynn Carsen in The Librarian: Quest for the Spear (2004)

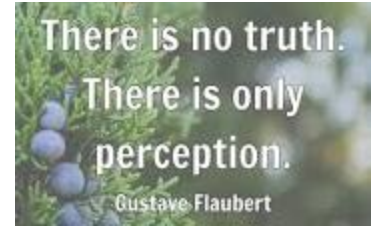


## 4. Reasons why people today would say **there is no truth**

### A. Relativism

- **Belief:** Many people adopt the view that truth is **relative**—what is true for one person may not be true for another. This can be applied to morality, ethics, and belief systems.
- **Reasoning:** Individuals claim that experiences, cultures, and perspectives shape what we consider to be true, so there can be no objective truth that applies universally.

**EG** Some value the police and others are terrified of them!?!



### B. Postmodernism

- **Belief:** Postmodern thought often asserts that **truth is constructed** by social, cultural, and linguistic factors. It challenges the idea that there is a single, objective truth.
- **Reasoning:** Postmodern thinkers argue that all truths are subjective interpretations of reality, often influenced by power structures, and that we should be skeptical of claims of universal truth. **EG** Some hold the US as a benefit to the world ... where others see the US as a “colonial oppressor”

### C. Scientific Skepticism

- **Belief:** Some argue that what we consider truth is constantly evolving as **scientific discoveries** and new evidence emerge.
- **Reasoning:** Since scientific understanding changes over time, some conclude that **truth is provisional** and can never be fully known with certainty. **EG** Changing “age of the universe”, “Age of the Earth”, *Nature* of matter - Atoms = smallest thing- then protons & electrons - then quarks, leptons, bosons, etc

### D. Cultural Diversity and Pluralism

- **Belief:** With increasing exposure to different cultures and belief systems, many argue that **no one culture** or worldview has a monopoly on truth.
- **Reasoning:** Because different cultures hold different "truths," it's difficult to claim one objective truth over another, leading to a perception that truth is plural and situational. **EG** “All religions are equally good & have value” (Yikes!!)

### E. Influence of Media and Misinformation



- **Belief:** The rise of **fake news, misinformation, and biased reporting** has led some to doubt the existence of objective truth in media and politics.
- **Reasoning:** With contradictory information and competing narratives in media, some feel that it's hard to discern what is true, leading to skepticism about the existence of truth itself. **EG** Is Israel good or bad? Are national borders good or bad? Are prisons ...?

## F. Moral and Ethical Subjectivity

- **Belief:** Many people argue that **morality is subjective** and differs based on personal or societal standards, so there is no absolute moral truth.
- **Reasoning:** Because moral judgments vary between individuals and societies, they conclude that truth itself must be flexible or constructed based on circumstances.  
**EG** If society passes a law to say something is moral (eg homosexuality) you instantly are expected to align with the new reality - old ideas are obsolete

## G. Philosophical Nihilism

- **Belief:** Nihilism suggests that **life has no inherent meaning** or truth, rejecting the idea of ANY overarching truth or purpose.
- **Reasoning:** Nihilists believe that truth is an illusion, a human construct, and that nothing has any true value or meaning.  
**EG** universe is indifferent, we live, we die, then nothing

## 5. Reasons why people today would say **truth does exist**



### A. Objective Reality

- **Belief:** Many assert that there is an **objective reality** that exists independent of individual perception or opinion.
- **Reasoning:** Certain truths, such as the laws of physics, mathematical principles, and historical facts, are true regardless of personal beliefs or interpretations. For example, the Earth revolves around the Sun, whether one believes it or not. Believing  $1+1=2$  has allowed us to go to the moon, etc

### B. Moral Absolutism

- **Belief:** Some believe in **moral absolutes**—that certain actions are universally right or wrong, regardless of cultural or personal opinion.
- **Reasoning:** Moral absolutes, such as the wrongness of murder or stealing, suggest that some ethical truths transcend time and culture, pointing to the existence of universal truth.

### C. Logical Consistency

- **Belief:** Logic and reason require that there is a truth to every proposition, as something **cannot be both true and false** at the same time.
- **Reasoning:** The law of non-contradiction, which states that a statement cannot be both true and false at the same time, supports the idea that truth must exist. Without truth, logical reasoning would collapse.

## D. Scientific Discoveries

- **Belief:** The success of **science** in describing the natural world demonstrates that truth can be discovered and known.
- **Reasoning:** Scientific methods are based on the assumption that there are truths about the universe that can be observed, tested, and verified. Scientific advances (e.g., medicine, technology) provide evidence of objective truths about the physical world.



## E. Universal Human Experiences

- **Belief:** Certain **human experiences** and emotions, such as love, justice, and suffering, are understood universally, pointing to shared truths about human nature.
- **Reasoning:** Across cultures and history, humans have shared common experiences and values, such as a sense of fairness, love for family, and the need for justice, which suggest there are fundamental truths about human existence.

## F. Common Sense

- **Belief:** Many argue that **common sense** shows us that truth exists.
- **Reasoning:** Simple everyday observations, such as knowing that fire burns or that food satisfies hunger, suggest that certain truths about the world are self-evident and do not depend on interpretation.

## G. Historical Facts

- **Belief:** **Historical events** are objective truths that happened in a specific time and place, regardless of interpretation or opinion.
- **Reasoning:** Events such as wars, elections, or the signing of important documents are factual occurrences that cannot be changed or denied, pointing to the existence of historical truths.

## H. Moral and Ethical Accountability

- **Belief:** The existence of **justice systems** implies a belief in truth, particularly in terms of moral responsibility and right versus wrong.
- **Reasoning:** Courts of law operate on the assumption that truth can be determined through evidence and testimony. If truth did not exist, justice would be impossible to administer, since guilt and innocence would be meaningless concepts.

## I. Religious Beliefs

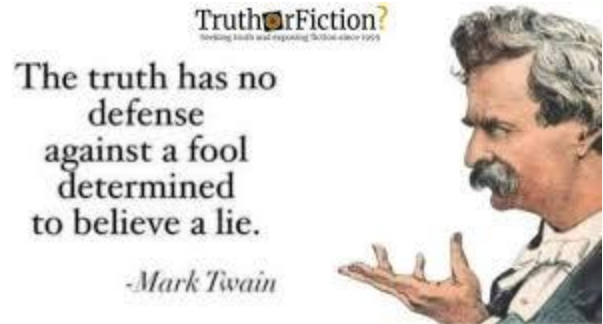
- **Belief:** Many religious traditions assert that there is an ultimate truth revealed by a higher power (e.g., God) that governs life, the universe, and morality.
- **Reasoning:** For many, the belief in divine truth gives their life purpose and structure. Religious scriptures, prophecies, and teachings claim to convey objective truths about existence, morality, and the nature of the divine.

## J. Philosophical Realism

- **Belief:** Philosophical realism posits that objects and truths exist **independently of human thought** or perception.
- **Reasoning:** Realists argue that there are truths about the world that are objective and do not rely on human perception to exist. For example, the existence of the Earth does not depend on whether we are aware of it or not.

## K. Human Rights

- **Belief:** The concept of **universal human rights** is based on the belief in objective moral truths that apply to all people.
- **Reasoning:** The idea that all humans deserve dignity, freedom, and respect rests on the assumption that these are objectively true principles that apply to everyone, regardless of culture or personal belief.



## L. Self-Contradiction of Denying Truth

- **Belief:** To deny the existence of truth is, paradoxically, to make a **truth claim**.
- **Reasoning:** When someone says "there is no truth," they are making a statement that they believe to be true. This is self-contradictory because it assumes that at least one thing (their statement) is true, proving that truth must exist.

## M. Trust in Objective Standards

- **Belief:** Fields like **mathematics, engineering, and law** operate on objective truths and standards that cannot be subjective.
- **Reasoning:** Successful infrastructure, technology, and governance rely on universal standards and objective truths. For instance, airplanes fly based on truths in physics and engineering, and legal systems function by discerning truths through evidence.

## N. Consistency in Natural Laws

- **Belief:** The universe operates according to **natural laws** that are consistently true everywhere.
- **Reasoning:** Gravity, thermodynamics, and other laws of nature hold true regardless of personal belief or interpretation, suggesting that there **are** objective truths governing reality.

## O. Ethical Progress

- **Belief:** Ethical progress, such as the abolition of slavery or advances in civil rights, implies that there are **moral truths** society strives to realize.
- **Reasoning:** People often argue that society becomes more ethical as it recognizes objective truths about human dignity, fairness, and justice, which further points to the existence of moral truth.

## 6. Some scriptures featuring **people lying**

- A. **Genesis 12:11-13** (*Abram lies about Sarai being his sister*) And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, 'Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, "This is his wife"; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. **Please say you are my sister**, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.'
- B. **Genesis 37:31-32** (*Joseph's brothers lie to Jacob*) So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, 'We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?'
- C. **1 Kings 13:18** (*The old prophet lies to the man of God*) He said to him, 'I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, "Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread & drink water.'" (He was lying)
- D. **Acts 5:1-4** (*Ananias and Sapphira lie about their offering*) But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?'
- E. **2 Kings 5:22-25** (*Gehazi lies to Naaman and Elisha*) And he said, 'All is well. My master has sent me, saying, "Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.'" So Naaman said, 'Please, take two talents.'
- F. **Matthew 26:72** (*Peter lies about knowing Jesus*) But again he denied with an oath, 'I do not know the Man!'
- G. **1 Samuel 15:13-14** (*Saul lies about obeying God's command*) Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, 'Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord.' But Samuel said, 'What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?'





## 7. 25 Scriptural lessons about **truth**



### A. God is the Source of Truth

- **John 17:17: Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**
- **Lesson:** God's word is the ultimate truth, & it sanctifies believers, setting apart for holy living

### B. Truth Leads to Freedom

- **John 8:32: And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**
- **Lesson:** Knowing the truth liberates us from the bondage of sin and deception = freedom

### C. Jesus is the Truth

- **John 14:6: Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'**
- **Lesson:** Jesus Christ embodies the truth. He is the only way to salvation & eternal life

### D. Speaking the Truth in Love

- **Ephesians 4:15: But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.**
- **Lesson:** We are called to speak the truth, but it should be done with love, aiming for spiritual growth & unity in the body of Christ.

### E. The Truth Protects Against Deception

- **Ephesians 6:14: Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth...**
- **Lesson:** Truth is part of the armor of God. It protects us from falsehood & the lies of Satan

### F. The Spirit of Truth Guides Believers

- **John 16:13: However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...**
- **Lesson:** The Holy Spirit, also called the Spirit of Truth, guides believers into a deeper understanding of God's truth.

### G. God Desires Truth in Our Hearts

- **Psalms 51:6: Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.**
- **Lesson:** God values truth in our innermost being. He wants us to be honest, not only outwardly but also inwardly, in our thoughts and intentions.

### H. Rejecting Truth Leads to Consequences

- **Romans 1:25: Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**
- **Lesson:** Rejecting God's truth leads to spiritual blindness and idolatry, which brings about God's judgment.

### I. Worship God in Truth

- **John 4:24: God is Spirit, & those who worship Him must worship in spirit & truth**
- **Lesson:** Worship that pleases God must be based on truth, not pretence or mere rituals.

## J. Truth is Eternal

- **Psalm 117:2: For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!**
- **Lesson:** God's truth is everlasting. It never changes, and it will always stand

## K. Truth and Integrity Go Hand in Hand

- **Proverbs 12:19: The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.**
- **Lesson:** Truth is enduring & leads to integrity, while lies are temporary & bring about ruin

## L. Truth Promotes Justice

- **Zechariah 8:16: These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace.**
- **Lesson:** Truth is essential for justice and peace in society. Without truth, justice is perverted, and peace cannot be sustained.

## M. Avoid Falsehood & Embrace Truth

- **Colossians 3:9: Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds**
- **Lesson:** Believers are called to reject all forms of deceit and embrace truthfulness as a mark of the new life in Christ.



## N. God Judges Based on Truth

- **Romans 2:2: But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.**
- **Lesson:** God's judgment is always just and based on truth. He knows all things

## O. Truth Brings Joy

- **3 John 1:4: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth**
- **Lesson:** Walking in truth brings joy, especially to spiritual leaders & mentors, as it demonstrates faithfulness & alignment with God's ways.

## P. Truth Protects Against False Teaching

- **2 Timothy 4:3-4: For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; & they will turn their ears away from the truth, & be turned aside to fables.**
- **Lesson:** The truth of God's word protects believers from false teachings. We must cling to sound doctrine & resist the temptation to follow messages that appeal to our desires

## Q. Living in Truth Glorifies God

- **1 Peter 1:22: Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.**
- **Lesson:** Obeying the truth leads to a life of purity, love, & glorification of God.

## R. Lying is Contrary to the Nature of Truth

- **Proverbs 19:9:** A false witness will not go unpunished, & he who speaks lies shall perish
- **Lesson:** Falsehood and lies are severely condemned by God. Those who speak lies will face consequences, while those who embrace truth are blessed.

## S. The Belt of Truth

- **Ephesians 6:14:** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- **Lesson:** The truth is like a belt that holds everything together in the spiritual armor. Without truth, our spiritual life is weak & vulnerable.

## T. God Hates Falsehood

- **Proverbs 6:16-19:** These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, & one who sows discord among brethren.
- **Lesson:** God despises lies & falsehood, showing that truthfulness is one of the highest virtues He values.

## U. Those Who Love the Truth Will Be Saved

- **2 Thessalonians 2:10:** And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved
- **Lesson:** A love for truth is essential for salvation. Those who reject truth are vulnerable to deception and spiritual death.

## V. Truth Cannot Be Suppressed Forever

- **Romans 1:18:** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.
- **Lesson:** While people may try to suppress the truth, God's judgment will ultimately prevail, and truth will always be revealed.

## W. Seek Truth Diligently

- **Proverbs 23:23:** Buy the truth, & do not sell it, Also wisdom & instruction & understanding
- **Lesson:** We are encouraged to seek and hold onto truth at all costs. Truth is invaluable and must be pursued diligently.

## X. Worship God in Truth

- **Psalm 145:18:** The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth
- **Lesson:** God desires that we worship Him in truth. When we approach God with sincerity and truthfulness, He is near to us.

## Y. The Path of Truth Leads to Light

- **Psalm 43:3:** Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.
- **Lesson:** Walking in truth brings us into God's presence and leads us into His light & understanding.

