

## Truth or Consequences

1 Timothy 6:3-5

### Barriers to spiritual truth

1. Personal p\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4) –
  - a. *The words of the Lord Jesus*
    - 1) The New Testament is the words of Jesus preserved by His apostles and prophets (Jn 14:26; 1 Tim 6:3)
    - 2) Anyone who d\_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus's words is *conceited and understands nothing.*
  - b. Many thrive on c\_\_\_\_\_ which results in *envy, division, abusive language, evil guesses, and constant friction.* (e.g. philosophical challenges to God being all powerful).
2. Personal p\_\_\_\_\_ - some people in Paul's day used godliness for their own g\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5)
  - a. 2 Peter 2:1-3 states that false prophets will come into the church and distort the t\_\_\_\_\_ out of greed.
  - b. A historical analysis of false Christian groups reveal that the founders gained g\_\_\_\_\_ monetarily or sexually.
  - c. Today we see this in p\_\_\_\_\_ preachers (those who teach that if you are spiritual you will prosper financially).
  - d. This is also seen in Christian p\_\_\_\_\_ preaching only the part of the truth that people want to hear or in m\_\_\_\_\_ voting out pastors who preach part of the truth that they do not want to hear.
3. Consequences for indulging in the barriers to spiritual truth
  - a. The pretend believer – the lake of f\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The genuine believer – God's d\_\_\_\_\_

### Barriers of spiritual truth

1. Teachings that proclaim the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God
  - a. The s\_\_\_\_\_ of truth is Jesus who said that He was the way and the truth and the life.
  - b. There is no reason not to believe that Jesus only spoke the truth

- 1) Because of what He s\_\_\_\_\_ (His family position as firstborn son, His business, His home, and His l\_\_\_\_\_).
  - 2) Because He rose from the dead in spite of the efforts to keep Him in the grave.
- c. Teaching what the bible teaches proclaims the truth but teaching human philosophy is putting up a barrier to the truth.
- 1) Science is often thought to be a standard of truth but science has always been changing as they uncover more i\_\_\_\_\_
    - a) Science once proclaimed that the universe r\_\_\_\_\_ around the earth, and then the sun, and now the barycenter.
    - b) Science once proclaimed that the earth was relatively y\_\_\_\_\_, but geologists in the 1800's determined that the layers in the earth could only be formed over 1000's of years.
    - c) Christians have been unduly influenced by scientific proclamations and have reinterpreted the Bible through them (e.g. evolution and the day-age theory in Genesis)
  - 2) Cultural changes have unduly influenced churches such as homosexuality being an acceptable Christian alternate lifestyle.
    - a) There are denominations that o\_\_\_\_\_ practicing gay pastors.
    - b) There are churches that c\_\_\_\_\_ gayness as good.
    - c) The Bible is very explicit that the homosexual lifestyle is sinful and those who p\_\_\_\_\_ it cannot inherit God's kingdom (Rom 1:26,27; 1 Cor 6:9,10; see also Gen 2:24; Matt 19:4-6)
2. Teachings that promote the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God – *doctrine conforming to godliness.*
- a. Meaning- Every translation uses some form of the word godliness, which literally means g\_\_\_\_\_ worship.
    - 1) Jesus said that true worshippers worship God in s\_\_\_\_\_ and in truth (Jn 4:24)

- 2) So godliness refers to conduct which reflects that we are worshippers of God.
- b. Teachings about evolution vs teachings about creation
  - 1) How has evolution brought positive change to anyone's life?
    - a) It promotes the worship of n\_\_\_\_\_ and either diminishes or eliminates God.
    - b) It is not a source of self-worth - *I am a product of chance, a bunch of chemicals, a mere link in an evolutionary process.*
  - 2) How has creation brought positive change to anyone's life?
    - a) It promotes the worship of God as our creator who made us special (in His i\_\_\_\_\_) to glorify Him.
    - b) It is the source of a powerful self-worth that guards against s\_\_\_\_\_ and against giving into peer pressure - *I am created to make a difference for God.*
- c. Teachings about sexual deviation vs God's design
  - 1) How has sexual deviation brought positive change to anyone's life? – it has led to sexually transmitted diseases, heartaches, distrust, and even d\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) How has following God's design for sexuality brought positive change to anyone's life? – it builds love, r\_\_\_\_\_, and trust in relationships which glorifies God.

### **Conclusion:**

1. We live in a constant state of choices: truth or consequences
  - a. Personal p\_\_\_\_\_ and personal p\_\_\_\_\_ are the devil's tools to keep spiritual truth from being possessed and proclaimed.
  - b. The w\_\_\_\_\_ of God and the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God are God's tools in possessing and proclaiming spiritual truth.
2. Truth or Consequences?
  - a. The devil will a\_\_\_\_\_ you every time.
  - b. God will u\_\_\_\_\_ you to make an eternal difference.