



THE POST-TRUTH ERA

A white line graphic resembling a stylized 'V' or a jagged horizontal line is positioned to the left of the word 'ERA'.

WITH
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THE POST-TRUTH ERA

Session 1: Convenience Is What Captivates

Key Scripture:

Psalm 119:30

Opening Remarks

Our culture is racing down the home stretch, shifting as the sands of the sea down the road of perdition. Convenience is what captivates. If a business does not provide convenience, it will not survive. Convenience is comfortable but in the spiritual realm, it cannot confine the church. Sacrifice must never be replaced by convenience and self-service.

Watch the Session 1 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. What is something you currently use in your life primarily because of convenience that you did not use ten years ago?
2. How can the church properly balance providing convenience without compromising truth?
3. How have current events shaped the reality that we are in the Post-Truth Era?

Closing Remarks

The walk of Christianity is not one of convenience. Truth is inconvenient. The narrow walk we are called to is one of consecration, not convenience. While convenience itself is often a time-saver, in this culture it is too frequently used as an excuse for a time-waster. Let us be vigilant and seize this time we have been given, taking up our cross. Convenience is society's method, but consecration is our lifestyle.

NOTES:

[illegible]

Session 2: Motivated Reasoning vs Absolute Truth

Romans 1:25-31, Romans 7:21-25, Isaiah 40:8

Emotion has displaced logic in this new era. Opinion has reached primary value over truth. Society is no longer rooted in reality but rooted in emotion not connected to details. At the foundation of the Post-Truth Era is a reality that researchers have called motivated reasoning. Motivated reasoning is how people convince themselves their behavior is justifiable. Their truth is motivated by what they reason it to be, rather than what the truth actually is. As Christians in such a society, we must look to the standard for truth: God's Word.

1. What are some examples in society of people using motivated reasoning to shape what they want truth to be?
2. When you read Romans chapter 1, what stands out as the beginning roots of the downfall toward humanism? How can we avoid a similar slide?
3. If someone asked you “Isn’t absolute truth selfish and close-minded?” how would you respond?

Today's Post-Truth Era desires to remove truth and absolutes, but the good news is a people will come out from among the larger society rejecting truth. This called out people will be committed to hiding God's Word in their hearts and taking heed to His Word. Let's take a moment to pray that we will be that people who rise up and declare truth.

NOTES:

[illegible]

Session 3: A Form of Godliness

Psalm 119:89, Matthew 24:35

In a culture where the grass will wither, the flower will fade, and truth is placed on trial, we know the Word of God will stand forever. It is settled forever. It endures forever. We must stand on truth and trust His Word to be an unwavering light to guide us.

1. What is an aspect of culture that was not accepted as appropriate when you were growing up, but now is? Why do you think that is the reality now?
2. What are practical and spiritual steps the church can take to avoid having a form of godliness but denying the power of the gospel's truth?
3. How have other faith traditions shifted and how could that have an impact on the Apostolic church?

In these days when perception and deception attempt to supplant truth, it is more critical than ever for the church to love truth and pursue the power that comes with the gospel of Christ. The world is constantly shifting and twisting its version of truth to fit its needs, but truth is unchangeable. There is power in that constant: no compromise, no doubt. Let the church share the gospel with love, regardless of the changing culture, and not forsake the truth that will last forever.

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Session 4: The Church on the Rock

John 3:7, Matthew 7:13-14

The Post-Truth Era insists the church stand down and fit in. Never before has it been more important for the church to know where they stand, not on the shifting sands of culture, but on the rock of God's Word. There is one Lord and one truth.

1. What are three absolute truths in the Word of God that have kept you in seasons of struggle?
2. Read Galatians 5:1 and discuss the contrast of the freedom of truth as opposed to the bondage of this Post-Truth Era.
3. Discuss these passages and why they are imperative in a Post-Truth Era: Psalm 119:30, John 1:14, John 17:17, I Peter 125, Luke 21:33, Proverbs 23:23.

Instead of lamenting and complaining about this current era, may the church contrast this era and reach people with truth that is transformational. We have what this culture lacks. Our message is a roadmap that will drive their life to an eternal destiny. Truth satisfies the soul. Let's pray a prayer of commitment to buy this truth and never sell it.

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