

UNTETHERED

“Sin Makes You Stupid”

A **HUGE** problem ...

3 purposes of “**UNTETHERED**”:

- 1) To teach us how to _____ and _____ this lost generation
- 2) To equip younger Christians to “fly away from the nest” without _____
- 3) To do all I can to make sure my children don’t become “_____”

Relativism is the philosophical position that all points of view are equally valid, and that all truth is relative to the individual. This means that all moral positions, all religious systems, all art forms, all political movements, etc., are truths that are relative to the individual. Under the umbrella of relativism, whole groups of perspectives are categorized. In obvious terms, some are:

- _____ **relativism** - Cognitive relativism affirms that all truth is relative. This would mean that no system of truth is more valid than another one, and that there is no objective standard of truth. It would, naturally, deny that there is a God of absolute truth.
- _____ **relativism** - All morals are relative to the social group within which they are constructed.
- _____ **relativism** - Ethics (right and wrong) are dependent upon the situation.

- Matt Slick, Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry

How important is the concept of **absolute truth** to Christianity?

Jesus said the truth is _____. (And the *source* is His _____)

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Jesus claimed to _____ the truth.

John 14:6 (ESV)

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus said the _____ is truth.

John 17:17 (ESV)

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

2 Samuel 7:28 (ESV)

²⁸And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true ...

Psalms 119:160 (ESV)

¹⁶⁰The sum of your word is truth ...

Salvation is predicated on _____ and _____ the truth.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV)

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The Church is the _____ and _____ of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵... if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

4 characteristics of **Millennials**:

1) They are not _____.

They have simply taken the world view they were taught and extended it to its _____.

2) More and more do not believe in _____.

An increasing number of millennials list their religion as “_____”.

And what of so-called “Christians”?

Per Steven Lawson, what is a necessary mark of true Christianity?

1 John 1:5-6 (ESV)

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

How critical is “fruit” regarding salvation?

3) They have no _____.

From Abner Chou:

How important is an “objective authority”?

What do you do when you don’t have a “starting place” that all can agree on?

4) They are thoroughly _____.

What is a definition of "post-modern"?

Judges 17:6 (ESV)

⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Proverbs 14:12 (ESV)

¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Postmodernism and me/us:

How will I/we respond?

2 choices:

_____ & _____

or

_____ proclaim and live out the Truth (and trust God).

Church marketers are on the run before postmoderns, fearing that unless they make "adjustments" in how Christian faith sounds, and what it looks like, and what it asks for, certain extinction awaits it. Actually, this fear is not entirely misguided. The truth is that Christianity is leaving the West. Here, in the West, Christianity is stagnant, but in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia it is burgeoning, at least statistically. The statistical center of gravity of the Christian church worldwide has moved out of Europe and is now found in northern Africa. The face of Christianity is changing as a result. It is no longer predominantly northern, European, and Anglo-Saxon. Its face is that of the underdeveloped world. It is predominantly from the Southern Hemisphere, young, quite uneducated, poor, and very traditional. The question Westerners need to ponder is why, despite our best efforts at cultural accommodation in America, God seems to be taking his work elsewhere. Is there a lesson lurking somewhere where in this story? Evangelical pastors in America are now scared. That, I know, is not the appearance. Au contraire! These market-driven churches give every appearance of being on top of the world, of being cocksure. But let us deal with reality here. Evangelicals today are fearful, but they are fearful of all the wrong things. They are deeply apprehensive about becoming obsolete, of being left behind, so to speak, of being passed by, and of not being relevant. Never mind that they should first and foremost be relevant to God and his truth. That seems like a small consideration as long as they are relevant to the latest ways of being and behaving in this (post)modern culture ...

The born-again, marketing church has calculated that unless it makes deep, serious cultural adaptations, it will go out of business, especially with the younger generations. What it has not considered carefully enough is that it may well be putting itself out of business with God.

- David F. Wells, *The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World* (pp. 48-50).

There is a yearning in the evangelical world today. We encounter it everywhere. It is a yearning for what is real. Sales pitches, marketed faith, the gospel as commodity, people as customers, God as just a prop to my inner life, the glitz and sizzle, Disneyland on the loose in our churches - all of it is skin deep and often downright wrong. It is not making serious disciples. It cannot make serious disciples. It brims with success, but it is empty, shallow, and indeed unpardonable. It is time to reach back into the Word of God, as we have not done in a generation, and find again a serious faith for our undoubtedly serious times. It is now time to close the door on this disastrous experiment in retailing faith, to do so politely but nevertheless firmly. It is time to move on. - Wells (pp. 57-58).

Christian faith is about ...

- _____ truth,
- _____ that is to be believed,
- _____ that should be followed,
- and _____ in which participation is expected.

Conclusion: What happens when a generation becomes “**untethered**”?

Phil Johnson:

Steven J. Lawson:

Philip DeCourcy:

NEXT WEEK: Faith Isn't Foolish