

WORLDVIEW QUESTION #1: IS THE TRUTH ABOUT REALITY IS KNOWABLE?

VIDEO: A Few Good Men (I want the truth... You can't handle of the truth!) https://youtu.be/UXoNE14U_zM

> Augustine said... We love the truth when it enlightens, but hate it when it convicts. (Maybe we can't handle the truth!)

> We demand truth in virtually every area of our lives though... (loved ones, doctors, courts, employers, airlines...)

(?) Why aren't as many interested in truth when it comes to morality and religion?

(?) Why do you think some people reject the idea that any religion can be true?

(?) Why do we say, "That's true for you but not for me," when we're talking about morality or religion, but we never even think of such nonsense when we're talking to a bank about our money or a doctor about our health?

- Again... Augustine said "We love the truth when it enlightens, but hate it when it convicts."

(?) What is truth?

- Very simply, truth is "telling it like it is" but defined as "that which describes an actual state of affairs." (It's REALITY!)

> Facts about Truth...

- It's absolute, not relative. (If something is true, it's true for all people, at all times, in all places.)

- It's discovered, not invented. (It exists independent of anyone's knowledge of it like Gravity existed prior to Newton)

- It's transcultural. (If something is true, it's true for all. $2+2=4$ for everyone, everywhere, at every time)

- It's unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change. (Only our belief about a flat earth changed when we learned it was round). Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held. (Someone can sincerely believe the world is flat, but that only makes the person sincerely mistaken.

> All truths are absolute truths. Even truths that appear to be relative are really absolute.

- For example, "I feel warm on Feb 6, 2017" may appear to be a relative truth, but it is actually absolutely true for everyone, everywhere that I (me) had a the sensation of warmth on that day.

> Contrary beliefs are possible, but contrary truths are not possible. We can believe everything is true, but we cannot make everything true.

TRUTH VS. TOLERANCE

> It seems that in America today you're supposed to be "tolerant" of all religious beliefs.

> And in our culture today, tolerance no longer means to put up with something you believe to be false (after all, you don't tolerate things you agree with).

> Tolerance now seems to mean that you're supposed to accept every belief as true! This is known as religious *pluralism*.

> Pluralist think all non-pluralist beliefs are wrong. So they are just as closed-minded as anyone else making truth claims.

- They want everyone who disagrees with them to see things their way.

(?) Do pluralists have any good reason supporting their belief that we shouldn't question someone's religious beliefs?

- Or is it just their own personal opinion that they want to impose on the rest of us?

- Are pluralists ready to accept as true the religious beliefs of Muslim terrorists – especially when those beliefs say that all non-Muslims (including pluralists) should be killed? Are they ready to accept as true the religious beliefs of those who believe in child sacrifice or other heinous acts? We hope not.

ELEPHANT PARABLE

People say that truth in religion cannot be know. But exactly the opposite is the case. Like each blind man, we are told, no one religion has the truth. Religious truth is relative to the individual. But what's the perspective of the one telling the parable about the Elephant? If blind men suddenly could see, they too would realize that they were originally mistaken. That's really an elephant in front of them and not a wall, fan, or rope, etc. Many of us who deny there's truth

in religion are not actually blind, but only willfully blind.

How to respond to someone who doesn't believe in truth...

VIDEO: Is There Absolute Truth (Living Waters) <https://youtu.be/7lvSGCaicEg>

THE ROAD RUNNER TACTIC (Handout)

*Learn to recognize Self-Defeating Statements then simply turn it back around on those who make them

LET'S ROLE PLAY!

*Get a partner and practice responding to Self-Defeating Statements by simply turning them back around on those who make them.

Geisler, Norman & Turek, Frank. I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist. Wheaton, IL: Crossway., 2004.