

The Spirit of Truth
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2 Tim 4:3-5 (KJV)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

In these last days---ministers of the Gospel are warned that a time is coming, and now is, when the church will not endure sound doctrine (Truth).

Their “perception” of truth will eventually become their reality----and their reality will become a delusion.

For example, the church seems to be divided over homosexuality, abortion, tongues, healing and prophecy.

Regardless, there is but one truth. The truth is not determined by majority vote. In fact, truth is normally unpopular. Just because millions have the same opinion about a matter does not mean it is truth.

Everyone is entitles to their own opinion, but the Word of God says that no one is entitle to their own truth.

The Spirit of Truth is unpopular...here’s why.

“And when He is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:” (John 16:8)

He reveals (exposes) man's sin and compels man to seek God's mercy.

No man will come to Christ and no Christian can be sanctified until sin is exposed. And no man is capable of working out his/her own salvation that way! Our hearts and flesh are too deceitful. We sometimes fool ourselves

and use the scriptures to justify our sinful actions. Man is capable of resisting truth. Man is able to negotiate their way out of truth to suit their own sin. Man is able to defeat the wisest, most powerful exertions of truth which then interferes with the Spirit's desire to sanctify the believer. Therefore, God has provided for us a "truth detector".

The key to understanding verse 8 is the Greek word translated "reprove" (elegch[ma]o) means convince.

We are convinced by the Holy Spirit when we have a subjective realization of guilt. But why does the Holy Spirit want us to grasp the full realization of our sinfulness? Because, an awareness of our sinfulness brings us to an understanding of our need for a Savior.

The Holy Spirit reveals our sin. Then we are given a choice. Whatever hinders the truth from producing its sanctifying effect, grieves the Holy Spirit. By neglecting HIS truth men take command of their own holiness and sanctification. Through an awareness of our need we are driven to Christ as the answer to that need. So the ministry of convincing is an act of love. Without it, man would continue on a course to hell.

These are the results of a recent survey taken at colleges across America. The students surveyed were Christians between the ages of 23-41.

**59% say cohabitation is ok
58% say it is ok to gamble
44% say it is ok to have sex outside of marriage
37% say it is ok to use profanity
35% say it is ok to get drunk
43% say it is ok to look at porn
42% say it is ok to have an abortion
42% say it ok to have sexual relationship with same sex**

Jesus said, “ And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32).

But usually, the truth will make you miserable before it will set you free. Why?

Because---- self cannot surrender to Truth. Self-righteousness is fighting for the throne! That is why most people believe in a lie-----more than truth. Error lies on the surface. Truth lies in the depth where few are willing to search.

There is an old saying----“ Truth sits upon the lips of a dying man”. Why?

Because----truth waits for self to die. And it is only when self dies that truth can set you free!

It is now time, and far spent, for all of us to preach Truth again from our pulpits and reunite the Church with the Person of Truth, the Revealer, the Sanctifier, the comforter— the precious Holy Spirit.

**God Bless you,
Mike Desroches**