

# MESSAGE OUTLINE

## SUNDAY, September 25, 2022



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **TRUTH vs. Postmodernism**  
Worldview—Part 6  
Pastor Gary Stump

Don't we long for the truth?

God wants us to know the Truth. But truth is under assault! We are struggling in our culture to know what is true and what is a lie. Why is this so?

### Americans surveyed:\*

- 54%** All truth is subjective and that there are no moral absolutes.
- 39%** Human life has no intrinsic value.
- 28%** Treat people based on their current feelings and circumstances.
- 24%** Historical narratives are unreliable because they are subjective human perspectives.

### Seven worldviews we are examining in this message series:

1. Biblical Theism
2. Secular Humanism
3. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
4. Postmodernism ←TODAY!
5. Nihilism
6. Eastern Mysticism
7. Marxism

"Postmodernism is hostile to notions such as truth, logic, and objectivity. There is no absolute moral truth or universal moral boundaries. Science and reason are of limited value to personal and societal progress."  
(Barna, 15, 50)

*Judges 21:25 (ESV) In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

**Relativism** = the doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute. (OED)

### Postmodernists believe:

- Lies or deceptions that protect an individual or are based upon an alternative view of the causal circumstances are deemed viable
- Incidents of theft or cheating that aid someone in need could be justified
- Sexual relations outside of marriage is acceptable
- Evangelism is wrong

### Postmodernists surveyed:

- 65%** Believe our understanding of reality is based on cultural interpretation
- 87%** Don't know, believe, or care if God exists
- 53%** There is no life after death on earth
- 44%** The basis of truth is scientific proof
- 0%** The basis of truth is God, as revealed in the Bible

## Example of “Postmodernist” thinking in Scripture

John 18:33–38a (NLT) Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. “Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him. <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, *“Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?”* <sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, *“My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”* <sup>37</sup> Pilate said, “So you are a king?” Jesus responded, *“You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”* <sup>38</sup> **“What is truth?”** Pilate asked.

John 14:6 (NLT) Jesus told him, *“I am...the truth...No one can come to the Father except through me.”*

John 17:17 (ESV) *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”*

John 1:17 (ESV) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**Truth = ἀλήθεια** = the revelation of God that Jesus brings; Jesus himself for what he actually is as the revelation of God. (Louw-Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of NT)

## The last words of Jesus on the Cross

Luke 23:46 (ESV) Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”* And having said this he breathed his last.

## He’s directing us to the God of Truth!

Psalms 31:5 (NKJV) Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

God of Truth (El Emet) = אֱלֹהֵי אֱמֶת

## Do you know the Truth?

John 8:32, 34 (NLT) *“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...<sup>34</sup> I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.”*

The Truth sets us free from the penalty and power of sin. Sin is not only rebellion against God, it is acting against our own self-interest.

**Biblical Worldview on Absolute Truth:** In the person of Jesus Christ and through the pages of the Bible, absolute moral truths are knowable and can be applied to facilitate a successful and meaningful life.

## SO WHAT? Paul’s culture struggled with Truth (not a new phenomenon)

Galatians 4:16 (NLT) *Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?*

In this crazy world where truth is mocked...

- Will you stand for the Truth?
- Will you share the Truth?
- Do you know the Truth?

\* Credit for surveys and statistic in this message: George Barna. *American Worldview Inventory 2021-2022*. Arizona Christian University Press, 2022.



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## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, September 25, 2022

**1. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING**—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact [nancy1108smith@gmail.com](mailto:nancy1108smith@gmail.com) or 317-508-8149.

**3. YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT**—6-8pm at Onward Church.

**4. LADIES BIBLE STUDY**—Wednesdays @ 9:30AM at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers). Studying the book of 1 Peter using Jen Wilkin's guide.

**5. SERVERS NEEDED**—Our new facility comes with needs for more workers to serve the Lord by serving one another. Areas of particular need:

- **Host Team**—greet our members and guests with a smile and hospitality (see Kathleen Hodnett ([khodnett1207@gmail.com](mailto:khodnett1207@gmail.com)))
- **Nursery**—serve our youngest with loving care (see Kathy Stump 317-292-7632).
- **Worship Team**—use your gifts and talents to serve the Lord (see Marc Aldarondo 317-629-5326).

**6. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.



**7. DONATE BIBLES** in memory of or in honor of loved ones through the Gideons. See the display on the table in the worship area.