

IS THE TRUTH VALUED IN MY FAMILY?

Willie A. Alvarenga

INTRODUCTION:

1. Families today are under attack by Satan!
2. Satan's goal is to keep families away from God's Word.
3. Truth is not abiding in many homes today:
 - a. Parents lying to their children
 - b. Husbands lying to their wives
 - c. Wives lying to their husbands
 - d. Children lying to their parents
4. Most of the time, the entire family is given to lies and deceit! This ought not to be the case in God's family!
5. Two Old Testament passages which describe our society today is Hosea 4:1-2, "**Hear the Word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.** By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed."
6. Jeremiah 9:5, "**Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity**"
 - a. This was the spiritual condition of *God's people* under the Old Testament!
7. Based on this assessment, the topic under consideration is one of great importance.
8. This is a topic of life and death!
 - a. If no truth is valued in our homes, then heaven will not be our home someday (Revelation 21:8; 22:15).
9. With this in mind, let us discuss the topic, "Is the Truth Valued in My Family?"
 - a. Remember that only you know the correct answer to the question under consideration. It is my prayer that when you answer such a question, that it will be answered the right way!
10. As we examine this topic, let us consider Acts 17:11 and James 1:22.
 - a. Let us search the Scriptures to make sure the things we will learn are so.
 - b. Let us apply to our daily lives the things we learn from God's Word.

UNDERSTANDING THE TERM "TRUTH" FOR OUR LESSON.

1. In order for any family to answer the question under consideration, "*Is the Truth Valued in My Family?* We need to understand first what truth is.
2. The truth that will be discussed in this lesson will deal with the concept of truth/honesty as it relates to our speech in dealing with one another.
 - a. When the Greek language uses the definite article, "The Truth," then it has a reference to the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. But, when it lacks the definite article, then such truth has a reference to our speaking truth with one another.
 - b. Lexicographers Louw & Nida define truth as (*ἀλήθεια*) the content of that which is true and thus in accordance with what actually happened¹

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, [*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*](#) (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 672.

- c. Webster's dictionary defines truth as: fidelity to an original or to a standard. Fidelity to that which is in accordance with fact. That which is genuine, right and authentic. That which is without deception or falsehood.²
- 3. In other words, truth has to do with telling that which is morally right, genuine and without deception.
 - a. Every Christian must always speak that which is morally right, genuine and without deception.
- 4. As we study our lesson, please keep in mind this definition.

WHY SHOULD EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY VALUE TRUTH?

1. God, through His Word, has given us many reasons why every member of the family ought to value truth at all times. Let us consider a few reasons:
2. **Reason # 1: *God is Truth!***
 - a. Psalm 31:5, "Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, **O LORD God of truth.**"
 - b. Deuteronomy 32:4, "*He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, **A God of truth and without injustice;** Righteous and upright is He."*
 - c. As such, we must be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 2:21-23).
 - d. "He who speaks truth declares righteousness" (Proverbs 12:17).
3. **Reason # 2: *God has commanded us to value truth!***
 - a. Ephesians 4:25 & Zechariah 8:16, "Therefore, putting away lying, "Let **each one of you speak truth with his neighbor.**" for we are members of one another." – As Christians we are to speak truth, justice and peace, and truth to each neighbor.
 - b. As Christians, we should obey God at all times!
 - c. Hell will be our final abode (Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15).
4. **Reason # 3: *We will become a stumbling block to those in the world!***
 - a. Matthew 5:16 – We will not make a difference in the world if all we speak is lies and deceit.
 - b. Colossians 4:5-6, "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" – God wants us to be a good example in speech to others.
 - c. We will not be able to preach the gospel to the world if we reject truth in our lives.
 - d. 1 Peter 2:12, "Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."
5. **Reason # 4: *Truth can promote unity and love in the home!***
 - a. Deceit and falsehood can only promote division in the home (e.g., divorces, broken homes, etc.)
 - b. Truth will always strengthen the unity of the home!
 - c. Love and unity is promoted when truth is followed (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
6. **Reason # 5: *The rejection of truth will result in terrible consequences!***
 - a. We become guilty of abomination (Proverbs 12:22)
 - b. We will not obey God (John 14:15).
 - c. Satan will be our father (John 8:44). No honesty in the context!
 - d. There will be no peace within the heart of those who reject truth (Isaiah 48:22).

² Inc Merriam-Webster, [Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary](#) (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

- e. We will not enjoy fellowship with God (Psalm 15:1-5). Also Psalm 101:7, “**He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence**”
 - i. Fellowship only possible if we walk in the light (1 John 1:6-7).
- f. Hell will be the final abode of those who reject truth (Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15).
- 7. As we can see, truth should be valued in the home for these and many other reasons.
- 8. “Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it” (Proverbs 8:33).

BASIC PRINCIPLES ON HOW TRUTH CAN BE VALUED BY EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

1. Truth can be valued by each member of the family.
 - a. It has been done, and it can be done!
 - b. **We can do it!** God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
 - c. God has also given us examples of those who spoke truth all the time (e.g. Joshua, Paul, Jesus)
2. Truth can be valued by each member of the family.
3. Let us consider and practice the following principles on how to promote truth in the family:
4. **Principle # 1: *Make every effort/diligence to speak truth always!***
 - a. We are commanded to give diligence to present ourselves approved before God (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - b. We are also commanded to give diligence to the Christian virtues (2 Peter 1:5).
 - c. We are always to strive to keep our tongues from evil, and our lips from speaking deceit (Psalm 34:13). “Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.”
 - d. Most do not speak the truth because they are not putting forth every effort!
5. **Principle # 2: *Pray that God may help you to always speak the truth!***
 - a. We are to pray for truth--Psalm 141:3, “Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.”
 - b. We are Pray that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:2).
 - c. We are to pray that we may walk properly toward those who are outside...” (1 Thessalonians 4:12).
 - d. Everyone at home needs to pray for truth and practice it!
 - e. Everyone at the home needs to pray for one another!
6. **Principle # 3: *Grow in the Knowledge of God’s Word***
 - a. The more knowledge of God’s Word we have in our hearts, the less space there will be for deceit.
 - b. Colossians 3:16 – God’s Word needs to abide in our hearts abundantly!
 - c. Psalm 119:11 – God’s Word can help us to reject the sin of deceit out of our mouths!
 - d. 2 Peter 3:18, There is a reason why God commands us to grow in the knowledge of His Son.
 - e. Matthew 4, 7, 10 – Through knowledge of God’s Word we can overcome the temptation of dishonesty and falsehood!
 - f. Memorize verses that promote honesty and truth in our lives! (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; Matthew 12:36-37, etc.)
 - g. Let us keep in mind that knowledge by itself is not enough! We must practice what God says in His Word (James 1:22).
7. **Principle # 4: *Each member of the family must be a good example one to another!***
 - a. We are encouraged to be a good example one to another (1 Timothy 4:12).

- b. We are also encouraged to imitate Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21-22).
 - c. Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9 – We are to speak truth with one another!
 - d. We must strive to provide honorable things in the sight of God and men (2 Corinthians 8:21; Philippians 4:8).
 - e. Parents need to be a good example of honesty and truth to their children and wives. The same goes for every member of the family!
8. **Principle # 5:** *Remember that speaking truth in the home will result in a home blessed by God!*
- a. 1 Peter 3:10, “For he who would love his life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.”
 - b. We will do God’s will!
 - c. Honesty and truth will open many doors of opportunity in the home and in the secular world!
 - d. What a great blessing it is to have a home where everyone trusts one another! Where truth is always spoken to one another!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Is the truth valued in my family?
 - a. Only you have the answer.
 - b. My prayer is that the answer be an emphatic YES!
- 2. Let us remember the following:
 - a. What truth is
 - b. Why every member of the family must value truth
 - c. How we can value truth in the home
- 3. May God help us to always speak truth with one another!

Willie A. Alvarenga, P.O. BOX 210667, Bedford, TX 76095 / (817) 268 3222; 681 4543 /
walvarenga@btsop.com / www.btsop.com / www.backtobibleknowledge.com /
www.alvarengapublications.com / www.regresandoalabiblia.com