

“G od is T rue”

Series: The Attributes of God

Foundations ABF

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INTRODUCTION:

N ote K yle’s story about the diam ond. Is that real?

E ver thought som ething w as real and then discovered it w as n ’t?

- Impressed with some nice piece of furniture – veneer
- Wood floors – no it’s lam inate m ade to look like w ood
- Real fur coat
- G enuine leather baseball glove (sm ells so good...)
- Real coke – no it’s diet (veneer)

One of the characteristics of God is that he is the real deal. He is true.

Jesus: “I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life.”

N OTE: Suppose someone said, “I always tell the truth. I have never told a lie.” W hat would you conclude? Jesus says, not “I always tell.. ” but “I AM the truth.” N ormal people don’t say those things. H is followers believed him!

God IS truth.

Three ways we see God’s truthfulness manifested throughout Scripture:

1. God is Genuine (the real deal)

God is the real deal.

You can trust that there will be no surprises. He’s predictable.

(Heb 13:8) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(James 1:17) Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

T H E R E F O R E ...

A. You should accept no imitation.

ALL READ JER. 10:1-16

ALL READ EX. 32:1-9

Some of the false “gods” we build today:

- Happy god. My god wants me to be happy all the time.
- Teddy Bear god. My god loves me for what I am.
- Space god. M y god is a force that doesn’t really relate to anything.

Instead, we need to say, “I worship the one true God. I don’t understand everything about him, but I know I cannot mold him into my image. He molds me into his image.”

B. You should seek to be a genuine person.

ILLUS: Image management

- If I’m late...
- If someone slams on my team ...
- If someone criticizes me...

The real me is full of weakness and insecurity and so I cover that up.

(Rom 12:9) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

LATIN SINCERE – without wax – tell story – jars with cracks filled in with wax.

2. God is Veracious (tells the truth)

(WE DEALT WITH THIS BRIEFLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO)

(1 Sam 15:29) He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.

(Titus 1:2) ... a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

(Hebrews 6:13-18) When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."

15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

(John 17:17) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

PROBLEM PASSAGES?

1 Sam 16:1-3 (ALL LOOK UP)

Did God encourage Samuel to lie? I choose to believe not, because God can’t lie. Several possible understandings:

- It’s not wrong to lie to protect an innocent life.

Midwives in Egypt

Hiding Jews in Nazi Germany

Problem here: we have God directing this lie – that seems different.

- Not telling the whole truth is not always a lie. Sometimes it is. If your wife says where have you been – to the store... lie. If a stranger says, “What have you been doing?” and you say shopping, when you also stopped by the gas station, that’s not wrong – intent. Under this scenario Samuel is basically saying, “It’s none of anybody’s business what all I’m going to do here. One reason I’ve come is to sacrifice to the Lord as he commanded me to do.”
- Some theologians would say: A person who intends to do evil with the truth has lost the right to hear truth from you. That truth telling is a two-way street, involving a trust relationship between the speaker and the listener. If it is clear that the one who demands truth intends evil, then he has lost the right to expect truth from the speaker. Sounds great, but sounds more like justifiable lying. I still like option 2 the best. I don’t have to give the whole truth to everybody in order to be speaking the truth.

ILLUS: liar, liar. Always tells the truth. Part of the curse is that he can’t NOT tell the truth, even if it means just keeping silent. Truth telling doesn’t mean always telling the truth. Sometimes it’s right to keep silent, as long as you’re not deceiving an innocent, trusting person in doing so.

Jonah 3:1-4:2 (ALL LOOK UP)

Interesting study of the word “relent.” KJV – “repent.”

Hebrew: “Nacham” means to “breathe out,” to sigh. Sounds like it!

Sometimes translated “comforted,” sometimes “repented,” or “relented.”

Just means “sighed,” and the context dictates the rest of the meaning.

Here the Lord sighed a sigh of relief and said, “I don’t have to punish them.”

Why is this not breaking a promise? Because there is an insinuation that the punishment is dependent on their unwillingness to repent. God has a right to change his mind about bad news and nobody – except a very proud prophet – is going to object.

THEREFORE...

A. We can trust God’s Word.

(2 Tim 3:16) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

If that is true – and we have good reason to believe it is – then we can trust the Bible.

(God has allowed this book to be the greatest glimpse into who he is. There is nothing else like it. If there is a God, would he not reveal himself to us? This is how he has done it.)

- B. We should always tell the truth. It's wrong to lie because God would never lie.

(Deut 25:13-16) Do not have two differing weights in your bag--one heavy, one light.

14 Do not have two differing measures in your house--one large, one small.

15 You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

16 For the LORD your God detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.

ILLUS: With no "Bureau of Weights and Measures," merchants would carry different stones in their bag to weigh out silver. And they'd have a different set of stones depending on whether they were buying or selling. If they were buying, they'd use the heavier set so they could sneak in a little bit more silver. When selling, the lighter set so they wouldn't have to put as much out.

(Prov 11:1) The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

(2 Cor. 4:2) Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

ILLUS: What are some things people say you know aren't genuine?

It was next on my list to call you

This won't hurt a bit

The check's in the mail

It shouldn't break down on you any more

I'm from the government and I'm here to help you

NOTE: lying = deliberate intent to deceive (an innocent person).

3. God is Faithful (keeps his promise)

(Num 23:19) God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

(1 Thess. 5:24) The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

(1 Cor. 1:9) God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

ILLUS: NAME SOME PROMISES GOD HAS MADE...

NOTE: What about when it seems God didn't keep his promise? Anybody ever experience that?

Some things to consider:

- The promise that bothers me the most: In this world you WILL have trouble (Jn 16:33)
- 2 Pet. 3:9 – God is not slow in keeping his promise but is patient.. not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to repent.. Maybe God is allowing this suffering because he is patiently waiting for the person causing the suffering to repent.

WHEN YOU DON'T TRUST GOD, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

1. Honestly admit your frustrations to God. Jer. 12:1
2. Remember that he did not promise exemption from suffering.
3. Recall the times (every day!) when his promises have been true for you. (See BIBLE PROMISES book)

PERSONAL EXAMPLES:

\$1,000 expenses week on heels of \$700 rebate

Kellie's health – good news after elders prayed

4. Trust that God will make all things right some day, in his time, and remember that God is incredibly longsuffering, patiently waiting for repentance before judgment comes.

NOTE: GOD'S PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE...

- Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years!
 - Children of Israel in Egypt waited 400 years!
 - Even those who left died there and their children had to wait another 40 years!
 - Jewish people waited 2000 years for a Messiah (4000 years from Adam!)
5. Repent of your pride and humble yourself.

At some point we just have to admit it's a complicated world and I am not God.

“Lord, I don't always understand. And I have to admit that I wouldn't run the world this way. But you run it better than I could. I am nothing but a created thing. I am your humble servant. Please forgive my pride and help me to trust you.” “I believe – help my unbelief!”

Since God is faithful...

A. Claim God's promises, rest in them.

(Josh. 23:14) Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.

B. Keep your promises.

CONCLUSION: SONG- MY REDEEMER IS FAITHFUL AND TRUE. (sc chapman)

My Redeemer is faithful and true.
Everything He has said he will do,
And every morning His mercies are new.
My redeemer is faithful and true.

A COUPLE OF RESEARCH RESOURCES ON THIS TOPIC:

<http://www.e-grace.net/CAMinfinityveracityofgod.html>

http://www.gospeltruth.net/1860unpublished_theology/unpub_lec_11.htm