

## The Identity of True Faith and Practice

- I. Error begins with accepting some other standard for faith and practice than the word of God. **GEN 3:1-6; 2CO 11:3.**
- II. Personal feelings and thoughts do not determine truth. **PRO 28:26; 14:12.**
  - A. It is possible to be completely convinced that one is doing right though in error. **JOH 16:2; ACT 26:9-10.**
    1. Dedication to an error does not justify the error.
    2. Zeal is not necessarily a good thing. **GAL 4:17-18.**
  - B. It is possible to be in ignorance about wrongdoing. **PSA 19:12; ACT 3:17.**
    1. When this is discovered, the mind is to be changed and the wrongdoing forsaken. **JOB 34:32; 1PE 1:14.**
    2. God calls men to repent. **ACT 17:30.**
      - a. repent: To feel contrition, compunction, sorrow or regret for something one has done or left undone; to change one's mind with regard to past action or conduct through dissatisfaction with it or its results.
      - b. Acquired corrective knowledge demands an appropriate response. **EPH 4:17-24.**
      - c. The length of time that a person has believed and practiced an error should be no deterrent to making a needed change. **PRO 19:20.**
    3. An honest man, when confronted with the truth, will either repent of his error or cease being honest.
- III. The newness or strangeness of the doctrine is no reason in itself to discard it. **MAR 1:27; ACT 17:18-20, 30.**
- IV. The word of God is to be relied upon above the word of enemies, teachers and ancients. **PSA 119:98-100.**
  - A. Tradition is not the standard. **MAT 15:2-3.**
  - B. Creeds and commentaries, however well crafted, are not the standard. **1CO 2:4-5.**
- V. Miracles do not determine truth. **DEU 13:1-3; GAL 1:8; REV 13:14.**
- VI. Coincidences do not determine truth. **JON 1:3.**
- VII. Nature does not determine truth. **ROM 8:20-22.**
- VIII. The fact that actions/beliefs contrary to Scripture may get “results” is no standard for determining what is right. **NUM 20:7-12.**
- IX. Family or peer approval do not determine truth. **MAT 10:37-38; 1PE 4:3-4.**
- X. Emotions do not determine true faith (**JER 17:9; LUK 24:41**). Truth should rather produce and regulate emotions. **PSA 119:162, 128.**
- XI. How many or few believe a thing does not prove it true or untrue.
  - A. Joshua and Caleb were outvoted ten to two. **DEU 1:22-38.**
  - B. Elijah's ministry was a minority ministry. **1KI 18:21-22.**

- C. Noah's church was a minority church (temporarily). **2PE 2:5; 1PE 3:20.**
  - D. God's man is sometimes called to stand alone because of His word. **JER 15:16-17.**
  - E. God's word is true if NOBODY acknowledges it. **ROM 3:3-4.**
  - F. Obedient followers of the truth tend to be rare. **MAT 7:13-14.**
  - G. There may be many more followers of the faithful word than one is aware of. **ROM 11:2-4.**
- XII. Perfection comes gradually. God does not expect men to know everything before they will do anything. **HEB 11:8; PRO 4:18.**
- A. In the absence of knowledge or opportunity, God sees the intents of the heart (**HEB 4:12**) and is merciful. **1KI 15:14; LUK 12:48.**
  - B. When knowledge and opportunity are gained, actions must be directed accordingly to avoid judgment. **LUK 12:47; JAM 4:17.**
  - C. Continual learning that does not bring forth its fruit speaks of reprobation. **2TI 3:7-8.**
  - D. Ultimately, a person must make up his mind one way or another. **JOS 24:15; 1KI 18:21; MAT 12:30.**
- XIII. The question is oftentimes asked, "Why would God allow me to have believed a lie for all these years?"
- A. It may be because of unchallenged tradition that should have been tested. **1TH 5:21.**
  - B. It may be because of a love of sin and self more than truth. **2TH 2:10-12.**
  - C. Sometimes God tests His people by allowing them to be exposed to error. **DEU 13:1-3; 1CO 11:19.**
  - D. If a child of God is found to be in error, he should be instructed unto conversion. **ACT 18:24-28; JAM 5:19-20.**
- XIV. But some ask, "Well, am I just supposed to cast away everything I have ever believed?" Ans. No, just the errors. **ROM 12:9.**
- XV. Partiality is not to be shown in God's law. We have no right to only submit to the binding parts we like or overlook so-called "trivial" parts of the doctrine. **PSA 119:128; MAT 5:19; 23:23.**
- A. Disobedience in one point incurs judgment even though other points are faithfully observed. **REV 2:2-5.**
  - B. God has little use for additions to or substitutes for obedience. **1CO 11:20-22, 29-30.**
- XVI. Full obedience is the goal. **COL 1:9-10.**
- A. Love demands obedience. **JOH 14:15, 23-24**
  - B. Obedience is personal. **JOH 21:21-22.**
  - C. Do not be discouraged over past failures. **PRO 19:20; PHIL 3:12-14.**
  - D. The prayer of the upright is for refinement. **PHIL 3:15; PSA 139:23-24.**