

## The Practice

The Apostle John encouraged:

**If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1 John 1:6)**

Have you ever thought of truth as something that is *practiced*, not simply a *fact of reality*?

God declared Himself to Moses:

**“The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; <sup>7</sup>who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished....” (Exodus 34:6-7)**

Within this declaration God expressed two harmonious elements of His character. Love: Described by His compassion, grace, patience, lovingkindness, and forgiveness. Holiness: Described by God’s intolerance of sin and His unwillingness to leave the guilty unpunished! The character of God is truth: *Love* and *holiness*.

Jesus, deity in the flesh, was the embodiment of truth. In his earthly life he demonstrated the love of God, but also the holiness of God. Likewise Christians are expected to *love* as God loves and to be *holy*, as God is holy. This the practice of the truth.

The Apostle Paul warned that :

**The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. (Romans 1:18)**

Unrighteousness opposes God; it hides the truth. One might even conclude that since all sin opposes God, sin is therefore a lie against the character of God.

Consider as examples:

The woman who shoplifts takes possession of an article of clothing that she does not own, yet she wears it as if she owns it...a lie.

The man who commits adultery behaves as if his adulterous love interest is his wife...a lie.

The murderer sits in the judgment seat of God as if he governs over life and death...a lie.

A person lives a generally wicked life as if their wickedness is normal or morally good...a lie;

Or the wicket person lives as if morality does not matter...also a lie.

The purpose of these examples is not to cleverly classify sins as lies, but rather to illustrate that all sins lie against the character of God. For that reason all sin suppresses, or hides, the reality of God, the truth.

In great contrast, when a Christian shows compassion, he is demonstrating the truth of God, that God is compassionate. When a Christian is gracious, he shows the truth of God, that God is gracious. When a Christian is patient, she shows the truth, that God is slow to anger. When a Christian is forgiving, she shows the truth, that God loves to forgive.

When a Christian opposes sin in a fellow Christian’s life, he demonstrates the truth of God, that God opposes sin. When a Christian refuses to tolerate sin that a fellow Christian will not confess or turn away from, he shows the truth, that God will punish the guilty.

Righteousness, godliness, holiness, purity and love all demonstrate the truth. Yet ungodliness and unrighteousness suppress the truth of God.

*Practice* the truth!

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