

November 14th, 2021

Love Delights in *the* Truth

1 Corinthians 13:6

The greatest myth of the 21st century

Perhaps the greatest myth in the 21st century is the idea that you can love others *apart from truth*. In fact, we are told *in order* to be a loving person we must lie. We must *lie* by celebrating the homosexual revolution. If we state *the truth* that sodomy is a sin against God and ruinous to man, we are called bigots. We must *lie* by using a person's preferred pronouns. If we state *the truth* that God made man male and female and that these are unchangeable realities, we are called haters. We must *lie* by affirming a woman's right to abortion. If we state *the truth* that a baby's body is not the woman's body, we are chauvinists and abusers. Our culture has divorced truth from love. If you want to be loving in our culture, the one non-negotiable rule is that you must *deny* the truth.

The relationship between love and truth

But that is exactly the opposite view of Scripture. Our text says “[love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices *with the truth*.” Isn't this amazing? In order for love *to be love*, it must rejoice, delight, and take pleasure in truth. Love is *not love* if it disregards or despises the truth. And we can immediately demonstrate this. Why is our culture falling apart? Why is our culture so divided, so full of hatred and death? Because it despises truth. It is impossible to love your neighbor, and love God if you disregard truth.

The Big Idea...

Loving God and others is absolutely dependent upon rejoicing with the truth revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord

★Our Doctrine

★Our Duty

★Our Delight

I. Our Doctrine

The strange antithesis

The first thing we notice when we come to this verse is the strange antithesis Paul makes. He says “[love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, *but* rejoices *with the truth*.” In the Greek it’s literally “...love does not rejoice at *injustice*,”¹ and you would expect Paul to compliment it by saying ‘...*but* love does rejoice in justice’ or ‘...love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with right-doing.’ But he doesn’t say that. The contrast is *not* between unrighteousness (ἀδικία, *adikia*) and righteousness (δική), but rather between unrighteousness (ἀδικία, *adikia*) and truth (ἀληθεία· *alētheia*). I want to point out that this exact same contrast is made elsewhere. Hold one finger here and please turn with me to **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**. Paul says here “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,¹⁰ and with all wicked² deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth³ and so be saved.¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe *the truth* (ἀληθεία· *alētheia*) *but* had pleasure in *unrighteousness* (the same word as injustice—ἀδικία, *adikia*).” The ones who are condemned are those who did not believe the truth, treasure the truth, rejoice in the truth, *but rather* they took pleasure in unrighteousness. Clearly the *truth* in view is the truth of **the gospel**. The reprobate are condemned because

¹ ἀδικία, *adikia* - wrongdoing...” Derived from **1** /A “not” and **1349** /*dikē*, “justice.” Properly, the *opposite* of *justice*; unrighteousness, as a *violation* of God’s *standards*. Source: Biblehub

² ἀδικία, *adikia*

³ ἀληθεία· *alētheia*

they loved unrighteousness *rather than* the truth of the gospel. Now I point this out because some commentators understand the word “truth” in **1 Corinthians 13:6** to be a synonym for righteousness.⁴ In their view, Paul is saying that love rejoices in righteousness or holy living. Now of course this is 100% true, love *does* rejoice in righteous living, and it *does not* rejoice in sinful practices. But Paul doesn’t say that here. He could have. He could have made it very clear in the Greek that love rejoices in δικαιοσύνη *dikaíosynē*—righteousness or justice. But he doesn’t. He says love rejoices in ἀληθεία. *alētheia*—the truth.

The root vs. the fruit

Why does Paul do this? Because he insists on going to the root. Righteousness *or justice* is the fruit, but truth is the root. Going to the root is the vital thing. What do we hear in the world today? We hear of social *justice*, racial *justice*, economic *justice*, reproductive *justice*, but all these ‘*justices*’ are divorced from truth. Here, Paul goes to *the heart of the matter*: in order to be justice affirming in the world—in order to be love affirming—we must be truth affirming. In other words, we must rejoice in *the truth* if we are going to truly love others.

What is truth?⁵

So then what is *this truth* that Paul has in mind *here*? Certainly the truth Paul has in mind is *not* abstract philosophical notions. *This truth* that love must rejoice in *is God Himself*. God is *the* absolute truth. Apart from Him, there is no truth. That’s precisely how God presents Himself again and again in the Scripture. **Isaiah 45:5-6** “I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.” There is no other *what*? No other God. No other reality. No other ultimate. No other truth.

⁴ My two favorite ones in fact: Charles Hodge and Jonathan Edwards. cf. Charles Hodge, *A Commentary on 1 & 2 Corinthians*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2018), pg. 270; Jonathan Edwards, *Charity and Its Fruits*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprint 2013), pg. 221-221

⁵ Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines truth as that which conforms to fact or reality.

As one author has said “...this is not..man’s world: it is God’s world “The earth is the LORD’s and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein” (Psalm 24:1). Anyone who thinks this is...man’s world has taken leave of his senses, [he] is out of touch with reality.”⁶

Not a generic God

Furthermore, this God who is truth itself not a *generic* God. He is the Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We know this truth because God the Father sent God the Son into the world to reveal Himself to us. Jesus Christ became truth incarnate—truth-in-the-flesh. **John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and *truth*.” After this Jesus fulfilled all righteousness, and died vicariously in our place on the cross, He rose from the dead three days later, He ascended into Heaven, and there He sits at the right hand of God ruling and reigning over His kingdom. God has put all things under His feet.⁷ These things are not opinions to be argued over. These are inescapable truths—sacred truths—that we are to gladly lay down our lives for. Jesus Christ is the central truth of all reality.⁸ “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or

⁶ Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law Vol. 1*, (Vallecito, CA.: Chalcedon/Ross House Books, 2020), pg. 347

⁷ 1 Corinthians 15:27

⁸ Were anyone to argue with my equating “truth” with “the gospel of Jesus Christ” I would point them to Jesus’ own words on the matter. John 18:37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Furthermore the Scripture conjoins “truth” specifically with the “gospel” in several places. Galatians 2:5 “to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.” Ephesians 1:13 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.” 3 John 3-4 “For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” Though in this last place ‘gospel’ is committed, it is most certainly implied as being the truth they are walking in.”

dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”⁹

Not a national hero

Which means this as one author points out:

“Our relationship to Christ *cannot be* as it is to a great national hero. With a hero, we periodically honor him, declare our indebtedness to his accomplishment in history, acknowledge how basic his work is to our present advantages, and then we pass on. All we owe him is honor and respect. Having given this, we go on our way. Not so with Christ the King. His work did not end with His atoning death and resurrection. We sin if we look only to His past work. He is absolute Lord of all things, and absolute governor over all our todays and tomorrows. This is His world, and we are His creation and property. We have no right, nor any life or existence apart from Him. We cannot separate ourselves, nor any institutions we create, from His sovereign government and law...We can honor a national hero, but he does not command our lives. [But Christ] the Lord does.”¹⁰

That’s *the* truth of all reality: Jesus Christ—King of kings, Lord of lords—over all of history, over all humanity, over every nation, over every epoch, over every detail of our lives: our worship, work, marriages, child rearing, checkbooks, living, dying, dreaming, and hoping. We belong entirely and unequivocally to Him.

Principle: Loving others depends on rejoicing in the truth regarding Christ

Now, you ask, how does this relate to love? That brings us to our **main principle**: *Loving God and others is absolutely dependent upon rejoicing with the truth revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Now notice, I’m *not* saying that loving others

⁹ Colossians 1:16

¹⁰ *Ibid*, pg. 348

depends simply on *acknowledging* the truth. Mental assent to truth is not the same thing as *rejoicing* in the truth. The devils mentally assent to the truths about Jesus. **James 2:19** says “Even the demons believe—and shudder!” Paul says love *rejoices* with the truth. The Greek¹¹ means to delight in, to take pleasure in, to exult over. Therefore, in order for love to be love, it must necessarily rejoice in the truth. Three proofs of this principle:

Proof #1: You cannot truly love yourself apart from rejoicing in the truth of Christ

One of the often overlooked prophecies of Jesus Christ in the OT is in Proverbs 8. Wisdom is personified and says “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work” (v.22), and then again in v.30 “I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always.” Clearly this is the pre-incarnate Christ. And this is what He says about the need to rejoice in Him. v.32-36 “And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord, but he who fails to find me *injures himself*; all who hate me *love death*.”¹² You see the ungodly man does not love himself enough. It’s true that on the one hand the ungodly man—the unbeliever—loves himself too much. That is, in this present age, he only considers himself, and places himself at the center of life. But on the other hand, he hates himself, because he doesn’t look after his eternal soul and make provision for His everlasting happiness by turning to Jesus Christ. To truly love one’s self, one must rejoice in the truth of Christ.

¹¹ χαίρει chairei

¹² Jonathan Edwards says here that “...wicked men do not love themselves enough—not as much as the godly do; for they do not love the way of their own welfare and happiness; and in this sense it is sometimes said of the wicked that they hate themselves, though, in another sense, they love self too much.” Edwards, pg. 164

Proof #2: You cannot truly love your neighbor apart from rejoicing in the truth of Christ¹³

There are lots of Biblical example of how failing to rejoice in truth results in harming your neighbor. We'll see some in a few minutes. Here I would like to use an example from history. Let's examine two men and how their relationship to truth affected their family tree for generations. The first man is Jonathan Edwards. Preacher during the First Great Awakening in the early 18th century. He rejoiced in the truth of Christ far above any other subject. In his diary he wrote about his first convictions of Christ: "I thought with myself, how excellent a Being [He] was, and how happy I should be, if I might enjoy that God, and be rapt up to Him in Heaven; and be as it were swallowed up in Him for ever...and my mind was greatly encouraged to spend my time in reading and meditating on Christ, on the beauty and excellency of His person, and the lovely way of salvation by free grace in Him."¹⁴ Now how did Edward's rejoicing in the truth of Christ translate into His family? He and his wife Sarah carefully trained their children up in this most excellent God. And history records what followed. According to A.E. Winship's *A Study in Education and Heredity* (1900), the direct descendants of Jonathan and Sarah include: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 65 professors, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers and 100 missionaries.¹⁵ Jonathan & Sarah Edwards proved to love their children by

¹³ Think about how this applied to the Corinthian assembly. Two specific instances of wrongdoing in the Church. **1)** The incestuous man in **ch. 5**. The church did nothing about it. How does Paul correct them? By pointing them to *the truth* of the gospel. "Do you not know...[Christ] our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed[?]" (**v.6-7**). Therefore live in that truth. *The truth* of Christ should have motivated them to lovingly discipline the man. **2)** They were taking each other to court in **ch.6**. How does Paul correct them? By pointing them to *the truth* of the gospel. "...Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?...And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (**v.9-11**). Therefore live in that truth. *The truth* of Christ washing them, sanctifying them, justifying them, should have caused them to bear with the injuries of others.

¹⁴ Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards Vol. 1*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), pg. xiii

¹⁵ Source: <https://selfeducatedamerican.com/2011/10/04/jonathan-edwards-v-max-jukes/> Accessed November 13, 2021

rejoicing in the truth. On the other hand, a contemporary of Edwards named Max Jukes did not rejoice in the truth. He was a profane man, a hard drinker and had no taste for Christ. In 1877—150 years after his birth—there was 42 inmates in the New York prison system all of whom were direct descendants of Jukes. Further research revealed that Jukes' offspring included 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 50 women of debauchery, 130 other convicts, 310 paupers, who, combined spent 2,300 years in poorhouses, and 400 physically wrecked by indulgent living.¹⁶ Max Jukes proved to hate his children because he did not rejoice in the truth. To truly love one's neighbor—including one's children—one must rejoice in the truth of Christ.¹⁷

Proof #3: You cannot truly love God apart from rejoicing in the truth of Christ

The world has always been full of religious people who believed in God and have even claimed to have loved God. During the apostle John's day there was a group of these people called the gnostics. They, to some degree, had infiltrated the Church and *claimed* to be godly just like the Christians, much like the modern-day Mormon or Jehovah's witnesses do. But John carefully showed in his first letter how you can not pick and choose what you want to believe about Jesus and still say that you love God.¹⁸ If the Christ you believe isn't "... begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father"¹⁹ then you don't love God. This is what John said in **1 John 5:10** "Whoever

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ What a powerful example these two accounts are of the truth second commandment. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:4-6)

¹⁸ John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

¹⁹ Nicene Creed

believes in the Son of God [in the way Scripture teaches²⁰] has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.” Do you see, it doesn’t matter if a person says they love God or not. If they don’t rejoice in the truth of Christ—as He is revealed in Scripture—He is calling God a liar. To love God, one must rejoice in the truth of Christ.

Vindiciae

Those three proofs vindicate our big idea. You cannot love yourself, your neighbor or God apart from rejoicing in the truth revealed in Jesus Christ. In other words, your relationship to the truth—to Jesus Christ—is the most important thing about you. Only Christians can truly love others. That’s our **first point**.

II. Our Duty

4 duties...

1. Elenctic Use²¹

The **first duty** is for us to *answer an objection* from the skeptic who says “... the reason our culture is so divided is precisely because of ‘truth’—because of people who like you who try to impose your ‘truth’ on others.” Generally events like the Salem Witch Trials are brought up as an example as evidence of truth harming people. So how do we answer this? **First**, the truth *itself* has never harmed people. Sin that harms people. Wherever a Christian or the Church has harmed people, it is not because they were rejoicing in the truth, it is because

²⁰ Isaiah 8:20 “To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn [*that is, they have no light in them*].”

²¹ For the future, chase down the challenge to ‘love rejoices with the truth’ by asking if love ever lies? See Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law Vol. 1*, (Vallecito, CA.: Chalcedon/Ross House Books, 2020), pg. 552-559

they failed to rejoice in the truth.²² **Second**, regarding the Salem Witch Trials, history records that it lasted 4 months and some 21 deaths occurred. Do you know how those trials ended? They ended when two Christian leaders Increase Mather and Thomas Brattle convinced the Governor that they were not following the biblical requirements for due process.²³ On the other hand, do you know how many deaths the humanistic atheistic state governments has produced? From the 20th century alone, we know that Stalin killed 42 million, Mao Zedong killed 37 million, Hitler killed 21 million, Lenin killed 4 million, Pol Pot killed 2 million.²⁴ Mass murder does not follow after truth, it follows those who don't rejoice in the truth.²⁵

2. Informatory Use

Our **second duty** is to consider more deeply what it means to rejoice with the truth. The first thing we need to recognize is that the Bible doesn't recognize piecemeal religion. Piecemeal religion divides the world up into religious things and non-religious things. These things over here belong to Christ: Sunday's, prayer before meals, my quiet time BUT these things over here: my politics, education, my money and relationships are unrelated, isolated, neutral. "The Bible knows no such thing."²⁶ As Nancy Pearcey says "Christianity is not just

²² "A liberal historian, Jeffrey Burton Russell, after discounting as much of the trial proceedings, hearing, evidence, and documentation as possible, still found clear evidence that the witchcraft trials were dealing with an organized movement which practice murder, human sacrifice, and cannibalism, as well as other offenses against the law." Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law Vol. 2*, (Vallecito, CA.,: Chalcedon/Ross House Books, 4th Printing 2010), pg. 347. To be transparent, I'm not sure if Russell comments apply to the Salem Witch Trials or to others.

²³ Source: David Barton's Four Centuries of American Education

²⁴ Source: *The Truth Project*

²⁵ Though I don't agree with some statements this author makes, in the main, he shows how homosexuality (a lie about how God designed us) hurts people. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/talking-about-love-and-equality.html>

²⁶ Rushdoony, Vol. 2, pg. 526

religious truth, it is total truth—covering all of reality.”²⁷ Christ invades every compartment of our lives, because “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to [Him].”²⁸ Consider just two examples in which Christ demands to be let in. **First**, consider morality. Don't you realize that pagan philosophers have been advocating for morality for thousands of years? Aristotle in his book *Nicomachean Ethics* wrote that “Man finds his highest and most lasting happiness...[by practicing] virtue.”²⁹ He advocated for living prudently, hard work, being generous to others, and practicing self-controlled, self-disciplined lives.³⁰ But the pagan moralists didn't seek morality for Christ's sake. They sought it for their own sake. This is not rejoicing in truth. There's no such thing as morality if it's not being done for Jesus' sake.³¹ Listen to how Paul says it in **Titus 2:7** “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works...show integrity, dignity, ^sand sound speech that cannot be condemned...” Why? **v.9** “...so that in everything [you] may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.” Morality done apart from Christ is nothing but damnable good works.

Second, consider education. The main reason Christians should pull their children out of public schools is because *at best* state schools teach that the subjects are neutral. At worst, they now teaching our children to be statists and racists. But even if we were to rewind the clock back before wokism infiltrated the state schools, even if we were to remove all evolutionary nonsense, state

²⁷ Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity*, (Wheaton, IL.: Crossway, 2005), pg. 33. The historian Martin Marty once said that “...every religion serves two functions: First, it is a message of personal salvation, telling us how to get right with God; and second it is a lens for interpreting the world.” *Ibid* pg. 35

²⁸ Matthew 28:18

²⁹ Aristotle, *On Man In the Universe*, (Roslyn, NY.: Walter J. Black INC., 1943), pg. 86

³⁰ This sounds like his modern day successor Jordan Peterson.

³¹ Augustine says here “I remember too that once, when I had decided to enter a competition for reciting dramatic verse, a sorcerer sent to ask me how much I would pay him to make certain that I won. I loathed and detested these foul rites and told him that even if the prize were a crown of gold that would last forever, I would not even let a fly be killed to win it. For he would have slaughtered living animals in his ritual, and by means of these offerings he would have pretended to invoke the aid of his demons in my favor. But, O God of my heart, it was not from a pure love of you that I rejected this wickedness. I had not learnt how to love you...” *Confessions* IV.II

schools are still not a place to nurture the love of truth. Why do I say that? Because there is no such thing as math or english or history that is divorced from Jesus Christ. Neutrality is a myth.³² God did not design humans to learn about His universe divorced from Him. He commands that we teach the subjects to our children in relation to Him.³³ Because they are His subjects.³⁴ That's *why* God created all the subjects for the purposes of worship, for the purpose of rejoicing in Him.

Psalm 77:11-12 “I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.”

Psalm 104:24 “O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.”

Psalm 111:2 “Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.”

Beloved, the purpose of education is worship. The purpose of education is so that our children learn how to rejoice in the truth. So consider more deeply what it means to rejoice in the truth. Any truth that doesn't come under the Lordship of Christ is a rebel against authority and majesty.

³² Not that I'm saying the state schools are neutral in any way. They hold to the religion of humanism. “Humanism is another master, with another law, education, sexual standard, another view of property and taxation, and so on, than Biblical faith holds to, and it is total revolution against, and treason to, a Christian order.” Rushdoony, Vol. 2, pg. 528

³³ Deuteronomy 6:7 “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” 1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

³⁴ God demonstrated this by asking Job 77 questions in ch.38-39 covering creation, cosmology, oceanography, meteorology, angelology, astronomy, thanatology, zoology et.al.

3. Experimental Use

The **third duty** is that we must *examine* ourselves. Do you rejoice *with* the truth as revealed in Christ Jesus? Let's test ourselves:

Do you treat your faith like piecemeal religion? Do you act as if some compartments in your life aren't under the Lordship of Christ?

Are there ways you have capitulated to the culture of lies? Have you kept sinfully silent because you are embarrassed of the truth or afraid of what it will cost you? Do you realize that this compromise is not loving if we mislead others regarding the truth of Christ? **2 John 6** says "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments."

How do you handle God's doctrinal truths? Will you trade them in *just so* you can have peace with others? Of course we shouldn't quarrel over opinions (**Romans 14:1**), but when if we say 'doctrine doesn't matter, what matters is loving others' we have divorced love from truth, the very thing our present verse forbids.

Do you refuse to admonish others for their sin? This was the sin at the Church of Corinth. The church refused to correct the incestuous man in **ch. 5**. Paul connected their refusal to laying aside the truth of Christ "Do you not know... [Christ] our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed[?]" (**v.6-7**). Do you see how loving others sometime requires to hold up the mirror of God's truth to their sin and leading them to repentance?

Fathers, are you teaching your family how to rejoice in the truth of Christ? Not just on Sundays, but throughout the week? **Deuteronomy 6:7** "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you

rise.” Mothers are you teaching your children to be in awe of God in the mundane activities of life?

Children do you rejoice in the truth your parents and pastors are teaching you? There is a story in Scripture about these wicked little boys who spoke harshly to the prophet Elisha. They said “Go up, you baldhead! Go up you baldheaded!”³⁵ You see Elijah, Elisha’s master, had been taken up to Heaven in a chariot of fire. And these boys wanted Elisha to leave and not bother them any more with his ‘truth’ from God. How tragic! Instead they should have said “Elisha, please teach us about God, please teach us the way to Heaven.” Do you know what happened to those boys who hated God’s truth? God sent two she-bears out of the woods and they tore them up (**2 Kings 2:24**). Children what does this teach us? That just as God takes notice of how adults handle His truths, so He takes notice of how children handle His truth. And He is much displeased when people—old or young—hate His truth.

Dear congregation, are there areas where you are not rejoicing with the truth in your lives?

4. Admonitory Use

That brings us to our **fourth duty** which is to rebuke those who do not rejoice in the truth, but rejoice in wrongdoing. Hating the truth³⁶, refusing to believe the truth, and delighting in the truth is a sin that God is very angry at. **Romans 1:18** says “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness *suppress the truth.*” It’s because people don’t love the truth that they perish are are condemned by God (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**). They are shut out of God’s presence forever. **Revelation 22:15** says “Outside are the dogs and sorcerers

³⁵ 2 Kings 2:23

³⁶ Hating the truth is to take on the character of Satan - John 8:44; Hating the truth is a sign of reprobation - Romans 2:8 (e.g. Jannes and Jambres - 2 Timothy 3:8); God has sent terrible judgments against those who have hated the truth and refused to walk in it - Deuteronomy 28:15-68

and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” Dear friend, the Lord Jesus invites you to come and walk with Him in the light of His truth. He said “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”³⁷ He is not at all like what the world says He is. But you may ask: “What must I *give up* if I follow Jesus Christ?” This is what you must *give up*: you must *give up* the misery and slavery of your sin. You must *give up* being alone. You must *give up* the guilt of your sin. You must *give up* the fear of death. You must *give up* the anxiety of a dreadful eternity. If you ask: “What must I take on if I follow Jesus Christ?” This is what you must take on: you must *take on* the peace that surpasses all understanding. You must *take on* a Friend of Sinners who will promise never to leave you nor forsake you. You must *take on* fullness of joy and pleasures at His right hand forevermore. Friend don’t reject the infinite offer and invitation of Jesus Christ. Repent of sins, turn towards the truth found in Jesus Christ. Confess your sin before God, trust and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, and He will wash you, forgive you, and dwell with you forever.

III. Our Delight

Don’t be a mormon

I sincerely hope, that as we have examined ourselves this morning that all of us would find many failures in our lives. **1 John 1:8** says “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” The point of examination is to discover those areas where we are falling so we can bring them to His throne of grace and find help in time of need. If your heart is saying “But Pastor Josh, all I can see is my failures, all I can see is where I don’t rejoice in the truth.” Loved one, you are a failure. And so am I. Jesus didn’t pay for your sins after you could do all that you could do. Jesus didn’t redeem you so that you could pay Him back by your good works. That’s Mormonism. No.

³⁷ John 8:12

This is the gospel: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). The only thing you can boast in is how great of a Savior Christ must be to save a wretch like you. Don’t you see *how* this is related to rejoicing in the truth?³⁸ If you contributed to your salvation in anyway, if you ‘assisted’ God, then your rejoicing in Christ turns into a rejoicing and boasting in yourself. And self-boasters never love others well. God allows you to see the poverty of your spirit so that you can see the riches of His mercy. The Lord allows you to see how far you fall short of the glory of God, so that you can love other sinners who do the same.

Hortatory Use

So I want to leave you with one final exhortation. In order to love others well, we need to see that there is only one Truth. Christianity is not a collection of truths, it is the one Truth, the only Truth, Truth with a capital T. Don’t buy into the idea of piecemeal religion—that some things in this life just are unrelated to Jesus Christ. *To the degree* that we fail to connect all things to the one truth found in Christ, is to the degree that we will fail to love each other. Remember the old hymn: “This is my Father’s World.” Oh the strength of those five words: *this is my Father’s World*. Preach that to yourself. This world *doesn’t* belong to the devil. This world *doesn’t* belong to Democrats or Republicans. This world belongs to our Father in Heaven.

This is my Father's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:

³⁸ Here’s the truth loved ones, think of your inner man like your outer man. As I get older, I notice that I’m getting uglier and uglier. More gray hairs, more wrinkles, more weight, more weakness. The older I get the more infirmities I see in my body. Don’t you see? The more mature you get in Christ, the more you can see your spiritual infirmities. The more you can see your pride, your selfishness, your anger, your impatience, your greed, your lust.

Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!

Beloved rejoice in that truth, the truth of all truths. That God reigns, that all things are under the feet of Christ.