

Step #3 – Becoming a True Person

My character can become a source that represents what is true about God's character.

(Leviticus 20:26, John 16:13, Romans 8:29, Colossians 3:9-10, Ephesians 4:21-24)

God's design is for us to have the same moral character as Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "Imitate me just as I also [imitate] Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). When we let the Holy Spirit live through us, we can have godly character (Galatians 5:22-23).

- 1.) What are some ways that your character needs to change to become like Jesus' character?
- 2.) What are you willing to change in your life so you can have a character like Jesus?

I can become a person of truth instead of a person who is false.

(Proverbs 19:22, John 16:13, Romans 12:2, I Corinthians 2:16b, I Peter 1:14-16)

A commitment to always tell the truth and not tell any kind of lie is a necessary step to conforming our character to be more like Christ's. Without a commitment to be a person of truth we cannot truly follow Jesus and become like Him.

- 1.) What commitment are you willing to make to become a person of truth?
- 2.) List some of the benefits you and others will receive when you make a commitment to be a person who always tells the truth.

I cannot become a person of truth without knowing the One and Only True God.

(John 14:6)

To become like the Lord Jesus and be a person of truth I must first know Him personally and ask Him to transform my heart and my mind so that I can feel and think as He might. Only a God who is always true and never lies, and only His Spirit of Truth (John 16:13) can help me to become a truly, truthful person.

- 1.) Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord? Do you want Him to transform your life to make you a truthful and trustworthy person?

God's Character & Man's Ethics, Study #1

The Truth About Truth

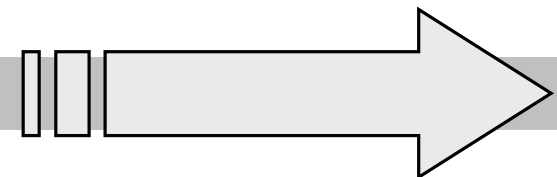
Of all of the character traits of God that He wants us to imitate in our lives, truthfulness may be the most important. The scripture teaches that we are designed by God to become like Jesus Christ in our *character* (Psalm 15:1-5, Romans 8:29). Of God's many character traits, God's truthfulness, and therefore his complete trustworthiness, is repeated in the scripture many times.

Jesus Christ spoke in clear terms about the sins of dishonesty and deceit, even going so far as to say that Satan (the chief of evil spirits) is the father of those who lie. "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires...there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). As one popular saying goes, "We are never more like the devil when we lie."

Jesus command to those who would follow Him is to be people who always tell the truth no matter what. "Let what you say be simply Yes or No; anything more than this comes from evil" (Matthew 5:37).

Sadly, there are too many people who routinely lie or act deceptively about both matters large and small. Without truthfulness trust becomes impossible. Because God is always truthful, He is always trustable, and He wants us to become people of truth who can always be trusted.

In this study we will discover the source of truth, how to acquire truth, and become men and women who can always be true.



Step #1 - Discovering Who Is True

The One and Only True God is the source of all that is true.

(Isaiah 45:18-19, Jeremiah 10:10a, John 1:17)

God declares that He is the source of all that is true because His nature is completely true and without any falsehood. The scripture even declares that it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, God only reveals things that are true, and only He can reveal truth without it being clouded by deceit or error.

- 1.) If we try to learn spiritual truth that does not come from the One and Only True God, will that truth *always* be true, or can it sometimes be in error?

God's character is always true and cannot be false.

(Proverbs 30:5, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18)

Because it is impossible for God to lie it is also impossible for Him to make an error when He reveals things to us about His character, or about our character. He perceives Himself truthfully, and He perceives our nature truthfully.

- 1.) Since God always tells the truth and never lies, what does this tell you about how you can relate to Him?
- 2.) How does God's view of us differ from our view of ourselves?

We cannot discover that which is completely true without coming to know the One and Only True God.

(Psalm 25:4-5, Jeremiah 17:9, John 14:6)

Jesus Christ declared that He was the One and Only Son of the One and Only True God. He declared that He Himself was the Truth of God in human form.

- 1.) If Jesus is the Truth of God, what does that tell you about His character and His teaching?
- 2.) If only God is completely true, what does that tell you about other so-called truths that are sometimes taught by people who know nothing of Jesus and the One and Only True God?

Step #2 - Learning What is True

The Bible is the One True God's *written* source for truth about His character and man's character.

(Numbers 23:19, Romans 15:4, Romans 7:7, II Timothy 3:16, James 1:22-25)

Since the Bible is the written record of God's word, it is true just as God is true. God is the source of the Bible's content. Therefore, the Bible reveals God's true feelings and true thoughts about us and about His nature.

- 1.) The Bible teaches that man is separated from God because of sin (thoughts, feelings, and actions contrary to God's truth). What kind of thoughts, feelings, and actions are contrary to God's truth?
- 2.) The Bible declares God's act of redeeming us from our sin, through Jesus Christ. Though we are sinful, what does Jesus' sacrifice tell you about God's thoughts and feelings toward you?

The Bible is always true and cannot be false.

(Proverbs 30:5, John 17:17, Titus 1:2)

Since God only speaks truth, then the Bible as the record of his word to us cannot be false. We can trust everything it says about how we should live our lives.

- 1.) Since God has given us a written record of His thoughts, feelings, and actions on our behalf, what does this tell you about the Bible's trustworthiness?

We cannot discover all of the Bible's truth without coming to know the One and Only True God.

(John 14:6, 16:13, II Corinthians 4:3-4, Colossians 2:8-9)

Since the Bible is written in human language anyone can understand the testimony it reveals about Jesus Christ. But not all of the truths of scriptures are open to everyone. Some people cannot understand God's word because their "hearts are darkened" (Romans 1:20-22) from understanding until Jesus becomes their Lord.

1. If you lack understanding of the Bible, how can you gain God's instruction to better understand it?