

Truth and Error

John said, “I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth” (I John 2:21). As Christians, we know that whatever contradicts biblical truth is by definition false. To put it another way, truth is incompatible with error. Jesus unashamedly affirmed the utter incompatibility of truth and error. He said, “I am the way [the only way], the truth [the only truth], and the life [the only life]: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Luke records the same principle: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12).

Obviously, statements of this nature (statements of absolute truth) are incompatible with today’s modern tolerance movement. The fundamental issue – if examined carefully – is not an issue of tolerance, but an issue of truth and error. As John said, “No lie is of the truth.” We as Christians must understand that whatever opposes the teaching of God’s Word or departs from it in any way is a danger to the very cause of truth!

Passivity toward known error is not an option for the Christian. Intolerance of error is built into the very fabric of God’s Word. And tolerance of known error is anything but a virtue. Truth and error cannot be in fellowship one with the other to yield anything good. They are as incompatible as light and darkness.

Paul said, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial [Satan]? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore [therefore] come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (II Corinthians 6:14-17).

We can’t declare to the world, “This is truth, but whatever you choose to believe is fine also.” It is not fine! Scripture forbids us to be tolerant of any idea that denies divine truth.

Scripture: King James Version: I John 2:21; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; II Corinthians 6:14-17.

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