

The Truth You *Know* You Know

Study Guide

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You are about to take an exciting journey through the Truth *you* know you know, the Truth that unifies you with all of humanity and draws you to God. You see, in the basics of human relationships, all humans have a common ground of “knowing” that literally bonds us together: Love. God is the living source of that Love. Once we realize God’s Love, then the message lived and taught by Jesus readily corresponds to our hearts, and we are able to confirm the Giver of Love, as well as Jesus, Love incarnate.

As a 13-Week Course

If you wish to use *The Truth You Know You Know* as a one-quarter (13-week) course of study, we recommend covering chapters 1 and 2 together and chapters 7 and 8 together. Also, bear in mind that the questions that follow are simply suggestions. Feel free to come up with questions of your own that you feel would be more appropriate for your particular group.

Chapter 1: The Truth You Know You Know

1. When someone asks you to “prove” God, what does he mean by “prove”?
2. How does the question, “Should we lie, steal, cheat, murder, or rape?” demonstrate people’s ability to decide certain moral judgments?
3. Can you prove God by the tools of science? Why or why not?
4. What are some of the traits of self-sacrificial love?
5. Do people find it easy to understand and accept self-sacrificial love? Why or why not?
Do _____ people find it easy to understand and accept that such love fulfills the whole moral law?
Why or why not?
6. Is there another single word besides “love” that could better express the pinnacle of human relationship or of God’s relationship with humans?
7. What makes such love personal?
8. Is it rational to conclude that our Maker must be personal? Why or why not?

9. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 2: Truth: Two Languages and Two Dimensions

1. Is the human heart capable of determining spiritual Truth for itself? Explain.
2. What is the fallacy in the statement, “There is no truth”?
3. If there is no God, or if all is God, can moral truth be determined? If so, how?
4. Why is it important to clearly recognize two dimensions of truth in order to understand the heart and character of God?
5. Can traditions, rituals, ceremonies, and positive laws be universal Truth? Why or why not?
6. What is Truth?
7. In what ways would perfect love serve others?
8. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 3: The Blinding of the Human Heart

1. What is the “image” of God?
2. How does God’s image show up in people? Can we see it in *all* people?
3. What might make it difficult for us to identify God’s image in people?
4. Think of a group of people defined by ethnicity or religious practice, and identify how the image and love of God is manifest in them.
5. Is there ever any human being to whose heart God does *not* speak? Explain.

6. In our American secular society, how could you establish with a non-Christian that a moral truth resides in everyone's heart?
7. How would you respond if that person denied the existence of a universal moral truth?
8. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 4: The Blinding of the Human Heart

1. What human characteristics of universal Truth can we discover in the Genesis 3 account of the fall of man? Discuss these.
2. Do you agree or disagree that God knew what would happen when He placed His image within man? Explain.
3. How does sin blind one's mind to the grace and love of God?
4. Why do non-believers not understand the impartial, forgiving grace of God?
5. Someone who does not believe in God or in sin cannot escape the cause and effect system of law. In what ways do you see this evident in our secular culture? How would you engage such a person in a discussion purely on the basis of law?
6. How does the law exert power over people's lives and their conduct?
7. When you sin, do you fear that God is angry, or do you feel shame and sorrow? Why?
8. In our legal system, when someone is brought to court, does he or she perceive the judge as angry and wrathful? Why or why not? What do accused people fear?
9. Express what you've gleaned in this chapter about the human heart being blinded to the infinite love of God.
10. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 5: The Common Denominator

1. What is the difference between perceiving law as a cause and effect principle and perceiving law as civil codes established by governments or as the rules of a religion?
2. How do the religions and philosophies of the world demonstrate the common denominator of law?
3. Explain from your own experience how the law of karma operates, both physically and morally.
4. Has your concept of the use of the term “law” in scripture changed because of seeing how law is defined by various philosophies and religions? If so, how has it changed?
5. In what ways is the universal moral law reflected in scripture?
6. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 6: The Wrath of the Law

1. What is the purpose of law? Expand on this.
2. Why does wrath belong to law?
3. Explain how being true to the image of God within you results in being true to yourself.
4. How does rejecting God change the predicament of sin and its consequence?
5. Is it valid for believers to speak of the wrath of God? Why or why not?
6. Discuss the ways in which people outside of Christ, whether religious or non-religious, try to escape the dilemma of knowing what they ought to do but not doing it (Romans 7:21-25).
7. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you

want to discuss?

Chapter 7: If Only There Were a Mediator

1. How can you identify the dilemma of law vs. grace in your own experience or observation?
2. Can you reconcile the demand of law for justice (i.e., an effect must follow every cause) with God's forgiving grace extended to all mankind? Explain.
3. How can keeping the law perfectly give a person authority over that law?
4. Would it have been possible for God to have been just and righteous in forgiving mankind *without* being born under the law as a human being? Explain.
5. Why won't the world allow God to love as we know *we* ought to love? Discuss.
6. Why should it not seem strange that God could incarnate Himself?
7. Why would love require us to conform perfectly when it's impossible for us to do so?
8. Why can law not mediate?
9. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 8: From Sons of Men to Sons of God

1. How could God Incarnate have ultimately reaped the effects of what we have sown?
2. Would it have been possible for anyone other than God to have done that? Why or why not?
3. Why was it necessary for God to manifest Himself in the flesh?
4. Why was it necessary for God to be born of a woman?
5. Why was it necessary for God to be born under the Law?

6. Why was it necessary for God to redeem those who were under the Law?
7. Why would we want to be adopted as God's sons, and why would God want to adopt us?
8. Questions 3 through 7 above are based on Galatians 4:4-7:
 "God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave (to the law of sin and death) but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."
 Why is each part of this passage obvious to the human heart?
9. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 9: Christ Unrealized and Christ Realized

1. Explain how the unrealized "christ" dwells in all people.
2. How does Jesus bring the christ in people's hearts to full realization?
3. Think again about your own "aha moment" and discuss it.
4. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 10: Identifying Christ in the Hearts of the World

1. Does learning about the concept of a "christ" or a mediator in different philosophies and religions change your thinking? If so, how has your thinking changed?
2. Apply the statement from Ecclesiastes 3:11 about "eternity in the hearts of men" to what you have learned concerning other belief systems' concepts.
3. How can you demonstrate that God is at work in the hearts of all people?

4. How does God appeal to all people's consciences as to whether they have done good or evil? (See Romans 2:14-16.)
5. Each philosophy discussed in Part One has chosen a specific word such as *Logos*, *Torah*, or *Tao* to express how the law of nature mediates morality to the heart. Why did these philosophies never come to the conclusion that Jesus gave us: that God is love and grace?
6. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 11: The Equation of Faith

1. Discuss the various definitions of faith in current usage as described on pages 123-125. Which of these have you used before?
2. List the various definitions of faith that the book defines. (See pages 126, 127, 129, 134-135.) Do you agree or disagree with these definitions? Why?
3. In what ways are all people, including Christians, unfaithful to their faith, even while they still faithfully *believe* their faith?
4. Discuss the following statements:
There is but one faith.
Our faith is not something we create, but our faith is Christ (i.e., Faith is not the what, but the Who).
Jesus' faith becomes our faith and our faith ceases to exist.
5. Discuss how the "law of faith" differs from the law of karma.
6. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 12: How Truth Verifies Itself

1. Discuss the following statements:
It is not true because it is in the Bible; it is in the Bible because it is true.
We believe what we read in the Bible because it is Truth.
Never has Truth been dependent solely upon the scriptures.
2. What is the weakness in saying that something is true because the Bible says so?
3. Think about your own conversion. How did the Spirit of Truth find correspondence with the truth you knew in your own heart?
4. Can a person come to know Truth without having read the Bible? Explain.
5. Does the Spirit of Truth validate the scriptures, or do the scriptures validate the Spirit of Truth? Explain.
6. Does Truth reveal the historicity of Jesus, or does the historicity reveal the Truth? Explain.
7. How did the Sermon on the Mount establish that Jesus' authority came from God?
8. Why is the final witness to the Truth the human heart?
9. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 13: Cultural Barriers

1. Pluralism says that one religion is as good as another, and they all teach truth. To what extent is this a true statement, and to what extent does it miss Truth?
2. How can we tell that Americans approach God philosophically rather than seeking God in order to follow Him?

3. Why might it be hard to talk about sin to someone?
4. If you have encountered barriers similar to those listed in this chapter, tell about them. Were you able to overcome those barriers? Why or why not?
5. Have you encountered barriers in our culture (other than those listed in this chapter) that make sharing the gospel difficult? If so, what are they?
6. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 14: Barriers WE Build

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”?
2. When Jesus said, “I am the Way,” was he making an exclusive claim? Explain.
3. Why do Christians sound condemning and exclusive to non-Christians when we say that Jesus is the only Way?
4. Without quoting the Bible, practice ways of sharing the gospel with someone who has never read the Bible or who cannot read it. (You can use scriptural principles, but try presenting the message without saying, “The Bible says. . .”)
5. Why is it important to present the message without saying, “The Bible says. . .”?
6. Practice giving your own testimony without “Christian jargon” and the trappings of our own culture.
7. Is it possible that some Christians in India could worship Christ using Hindu cultural forms, or that there could be Christian mosques in a Muslim country? Discuss. Would this be any different from Jewish Christians worshiping in a Messianic Jewish congregation with Jewish cultural forms? Can *all* cultural forms be reconciled to Christ?
8. Discuss any additional barriers that you have encountered within western Christianity.

9. In this chapter, is there anything with which you strongly agree or disagree and which you want to discuss?

Chapter 15: Telling What You Know You Know

1. Discuss different “Mars Hill” type approaches we take today in order to share God’s love through Jesus.
2. Think of someone you have encountered (neighbor, employer, employee, hairdresser, barber, local pharmacist, etc.) who is an immigrant from Mexico, a Muslim living in the U.S., a New Age adherent, a believer in astrology, or an atheist. Practice ways to meet this person on the common ground of the Truth that person already knows in his or her heart about God’s love through Jesus Christ.
3. What might discourage you or keep you from talking to others about Christ?

The Thais have a saying: “Pit pen khu.”

This means, “Making mistakes is the teacher.”

May God bless you as you reach out.