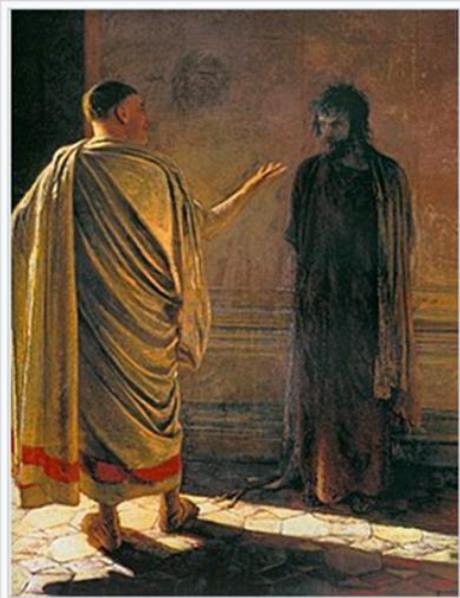


What is Veritas?



Nikolai Ge "Christ and Pilatus" (What is truth?), 1890.

"To educate without a value system based on truth is to abandon young people to moral confusion, personal insecurity and easy manipulation. No country, not even the most powerful, can endure if it deprives its own children of this essential good."

Pope St. John Paul II, World Youth Day. Denver, 12 Agosto, 1993

"Pilate said to him: What is truth? After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again, and told them, I find no crime in him" John 18 - 38.

The figure of Pilate that we know from the gospels is that of an indolent character, one who does not want to face the truth and prefers to please the crowd. This questioning of the **truth** that Pilate asks Jesus has been scrutinized by the minds of human beings throughout history. Great thinkers and philosophers have debated this issue. Approximately four hundred years before the meeting between Pilate and Jesus, the Greek thinker Socrates, considered in his day the greatest philosopher, was asked the same question.

Socrates was a very simple and humble man who considered himself ignorant. He became famous for his saying **"I only know that I know nothing"**. During his life he devoted himself to seeking the truth. He sought to know the unique nature of things and to conceptualize that truth. He opposed the so-called sophists of his time, who conversely promulgated that there was no single truth, that truth **is relative** and depends on each person. People decide for themselves what they consider to be true.

Doesn't this sophistic approach seem familiar?

Almost 1300 years A.D. Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest and theologian of the Dominican order, recognized as one of the greatest philosophers and theologians of the Middle Ages, a Doctor of the Church, left us a monumental job in analyzing the truth. A short analysis below:

"The existence of reality, which originates in God, is what makes it possible to reach the truth. Things are what they are because God, in his infinite wisdom, thinks about them and decides that they exist. This means that reality is reasonable and can also be understood by man. Just because we can't know all things completely doesn't mean we have no understanding of them. To know them is to know what they are, that is to know their truth."

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A Message from the Secular Catholic Society of Missionaries of the Love of God

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: What is Relativism and what are its effects?

A: Relativism is based on the dogma "it is absolutely true that nothing is absolutely true". Anyone can create their own right/wrong scales as long as they don't harm others.

Because relativism cannot be consistent the relativist becomes a selective relativist.

Negative Effects of relativism on our society:

- It robs us of the meaning of life
- It does not establish criteria for making decisions about morality
- It takes away our children's right to be formed based on truth and love
- It separates us from each other
- It weakens and curtails the Right to Life
- It makes it easier for those in power to manipulate the people
- It weakens the right to express oneself freely
- It destroys the faith

Excerpted from the book Absolute Relativism, Chris Stefanick. Catholic Answers Press

Send us your questions info@misioneroslaicos.org

We live in times in which societies seek harmonious coexistence, in peace marked by justice, equity, minority rights, without offending anyone. It imposes a term that for many is a "new virtue", for which we must be cautious: tolerance. This concept has been adapted in such a way that goes more hand to hand with modern relativism that seeks to impose itself as truth. But beware, this brings negative effects on our society.

For Pope John Paul II, "False teachers, many belonging to an intellectual elite in the worlds of science, culture, and the media, present an anti-Gospel. They declare that every ideal is dead, contributing in this way to the profound moral crisis affecting society, a crisis which has opened the way for the toleration and even exaltation of forms of behavior which the moral conscience and common sense formerly held in abhorrence. When you ask them, "What must I do?" their only certainty is that there is no definite truth, no sure path. They want you to be like them: doubtful and cynical. Consciously or not, they advocate an approach to life that has led millions of young people into a sad loneliness in which they are deprived of reasons for hope and are incapable of real love."

Pope St. John Paul II. Addressed to the Youth in Rizal, Philippines, January 14,1995

What does it mean to live in truth?

CIC 2465: The Old Testament attests that *God is the source of all truth*. His Word is truth. His Law is truth. His "faithfulness endures to all generations." Since God is "true," the members of his people are called to live in the truth.

CIC 2466: In Jesus Christ, the whole of God's truth has been made manifest. "Full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14), he came as the "light of the world" (Jn 8:12), He is the *Truth* (cf. Jn 14:6). "Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness (cf. Jn 12:46). The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know "the truth will make you free" (cf. Jn 8:31-32) and that sanctifies (cf. Jn 17:17). To follow Jesus is to live in the "Spirit of truth"(Jn 14:17) whom the Father sends in his name (cf. Jn 14:26) and who leads "into all the truth" (Jn 16:13). To his disciples Jesus teaches the unconditional love of truth: "Let what you say be simply 'Yes or No'" (Mt 5: 37)

Let us ask God to increase our Faith and keep our trust fixed in Jesus Christ, who is the Way to Truth and Life. "Everyone who belongs to the Truth hears my voice" John 18:37

Prayer of St. Thomas

Creator of all things,
true source of light and wisdom,
origin of all being,
graciously let a ray of your light
penetrate
the darkness of my
understanding.

Take from me the double
darkness
in which I have been born,
an obscurity of sin and ignorance.

Give me a keen understanding,
a retentive memory, and
the ability to grasp things
correctly and fundamentally.

Grant me the talent
of being exact in my explanations
and the ability to express myself
with thoroughness and charm.

Point out the beginning,
direct the progress,
and help in the completion.

I ask this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.

