



Reason and Reality... and Faith?

Reason & Faith: Perfect Complements

- **Reason**: The power of the mind to see and experience reality, think, and evaluate by a process of logic.
- **Faith**: Belief, trust, or confidence in someone or something, sufficient that you act on it, in real life.
- Reason + Faith = **Partners** facing uncertainty of reality

HOLISTIC RATIONALISM

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The Four Great Questions of Faith

- ✓ Origin: where did I come from?
2. Morality: how am I supposed to live?
3. Meaning: what is the purpose of my life?
4. Destiny: where will I go when I die?

The Causal Force is a *Person* ...

- Power, Intelligence, Free Choice
- Consciousness, Intentional Initiative Causation
- Rationality, Design, Information
- Love, Relationship, Communication
- Morality & Meaning

*... that Person is **Jesus***

Morality ... Meaning ... Destiny

Jesus and the Nature of Truth

GRACE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH





Who gets to make the rules??



“Bible is culturally outdated”

“The Bible is NOT true!”

“Bible is morally regressive”

“There’s no absolute truth”

“Everything is relative”



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Philosophy of Postmodernism

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“You live *your* truth, I’ll live *my* truth.”

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2. Affirms emotionalism and multiple relative truths.
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Philosophy of Postmodernism

Is this compatible with the claims made in the Bible?

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2. Affirms **emotionalism** and multiple relative truths.
3. Absolute **truth** claims are dismissed as **power** plays.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The human *heart is deceitful* above all things and is extremely sick. Who can understand it fully and know its secret motives?”

Matthew 15:19

Jesus said, “For ***out of the heart*** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. These are what defile a person ...”

In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of ***grace and truth***.

John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you really are my disciples. Then you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you free.”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the **truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6

John 18:37-38

Jesus answered Pilate, “The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the **truth**. Everyone on the side of **truth** listens to me.”

“What is **truth**?” retorted Pilate.

“Love is patient, love is kind ... love is not self-seeking ...

Love does not delight in evil, love does not delight in unrighteousness.

Love rejoices with the **truth.**”

1 Cor 13

Acts 17:11

“And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They **examined** the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the **truth**.”

Acts 17:17-18

“So Paul *reasoned* in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him ...”

2 Tim 4:3-4

“For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and **truthful** teaching. They will follow their own desires and, wanting to have their ears tickled, will look for people who will teach them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the **truth**.”

Biblical Claims

One singular, absolute truth does exist. Jesus is The Truth.

Love rejects evil, rejoices in truth. Morality is universal, absolute.

Reason discovers what is true, independent of feelings.

Everyone on the side of truth follows Jesus' teaching.

Truth sets you free.

Postmodern Claims

Absolute truth does not exist. Multiple truths exist.

Love, evil, sin, and all morality is personal preference.

My feelings determine what is true for me.

Everyone follows their own truth. I say what is true.

Absolute truth is a power play, used for control.

Complete Opposites

If Absolute Truth exists, then Postmodern Claims are false.



Both cannot be true simultaneously.

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Truth is that which corresponds to *Reality*

- ❖ Exclusive: Truth *excludes* Falsehood (the *not-real*)
- ❖ Material Reality: Physical, Chemical, Biological
- ❖ Non-Material Reality: Psychological, Moral, Spiritual

Wholeness, Wellness, Peace, Shalom:
when my heart, mind, soul, & strength
all align together with Truth and Reality

Health Analysis Division

Health state descriptions for Canadians: Mental illnesses

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 Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

Claim: “Absolute truth does not exist.”

- Logically False: Postmodernism is self-refuting.
- Practically False: The “Cyanide” Test
 - Everyone, everyone (!), behaves as if reality & truth exist.
 - Physical, chemical, biological, psychological, moral reality.

Conclusion: Absolute truth exists.

Who gets to say which claims are true?



Claim: “The Bible is Wrong. I am Right.”

Reply: “Says who?”



Who gets to say what is Right and Wrong?

1. Each Individual gets to say what is Right and Wrong for themselves – Independence View
2. The Strongest gets to say what is Right and Wrong – Evolutionary View
3. The Majority gets to say what is Right and Wrong – Democratic-Cultural View

When would it be illegitimate to ask the formal intellectual equivalent of what is known in barrooms and schoolyards as the grand “Sez Who?” In the absence of God, each ethical and legal system will be differentiated by the answer it chooses to give to one key question:

Who among us *ought* to be able to declare law that *ought* to be obeyed?

Stated that baldly, the question is so intellectually unsettling that one would expect to find people trying NOT to come to grips with it ... if its avoidance was at all possible ...

Either God exists or He does not, but if He does not, nothing and no one else can take His place...

Who gets to say what is Right and Wrong?

Science to the Rescue?

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Your illusions or mine? Is *all* knowledge a convenient illusion? Including evolution? Can you hold *anyone* accountable on this basis?

**Absolute Morality
supersedes and is
independent of:**

1. Majority Opinion
2. The Will of the Strong
3. Individual Opinion
4. Science, Society, Law

If none of these are the basis for Universal Morality
... and Universal Morality exists ...
... then WHO gets to say what is Right and Wrong?

Moral Argument for the Existence of God

1. If God does not exist, objective independent Morality cannot exist.
2. But, objective independent Morality does exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

Who gets to say what is Right and Wrong?

God gets to choose ... ???

Truth is not an Abstract Concept.

Truth is a PERSON.

“I am the Truth ... Everyone on the side of Truth listens to me ... The Truth will set you free.”

- Jesus

Real, reciprocal, self-sacrificial true *agape* love.

Truth is a Person, not an abstraction.

That Person does not *choose* what's
Good, that Person *IS GOOD*.

For the wages of sin is death, separation from God ...
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23

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