

Exposing Truth's Cost, Sharing Truth's Worth

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Introduction

- From C. S. Lewis:

"If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort, you will not get either comfort or truth – only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with, and, in the end, despair." C. S. Lewis

- The Cost of Truth:

The emotional barriers and personal biases that prevent someone from considering the truth, particularly when considering the truth means that that person might have to give up their own belief.

The Profundity of Cost

- Scriptural references

- John 18:37-38:

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out

- Modern day Examples

1. Emotional and Existential Barriers:

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven time sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke (that is, of the crematorium) Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith for ever. . . Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust."

"Some talked of God, of his mysterious ways, of the sins of the Jewish people, and of their future deliverance. But I had ceased to pray. How I sympathized with Job! I did not deny God's existence, but I doubted his absolute justice." Elie, Wiesel, Night

2. Everyone Has Non-Intellectual Barriers – Even Academics!

- Thomas Nagel, Professor of Philosophy at NYU:

"I *want* atheism to be true. And I'm made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't that I don't believe in God and naturally hope that I'm right in my beliefs, it's that I *hope there is no God*. I don't *want* there to be a God. I *don't want* the universe to be like that."

- Empirical Evidence: Julie Exline's Study on Anger Levels Toward God: Emotional Atheism

Exposing the Cost

- Ask the open-ended questions:

- Luke 20 - The Chief Priests and Scribes:

Now it happened on one of those days, as He taught the people in the temple and preached the gospel, *that* the chief priests and the scribes, together with the elders, confronted *Him* and spoke to Him, saying, "Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things? Or who is he who gave You this authority?" But He answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, and answer Me: The baptism of John--was it from heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why *then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet." So they answered that they did not know where *it was* from. And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

- The Content of their Question was Not so Urgent as the Intent of the Questioner. And it's necessary to Expose this intent through questions before any real answers can be given.

- Listen to the Answers

- Commit to sticking by them

Sharing Truth's Worth

- The Right Attitude:
 - Colossians 4:5-6

“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”
 - Blaise Pascal

“Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true. The cure for this is first to show that religion is not contrary to reason, but worthy of reverence and respect. Next make it attractive, make good men wish it were true, and then show that it is.”
- Why It's Worth it:
 - The Gospel alone provides real answers to our deepest struggles.
 - The Gospel alone demonstrates our objective value
 - CS Lewis:

But the great thing to remember is that, though our feeling come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him. C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity.
 - The Gospel Alone Assures Us of Eternal Life

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