



Stand for Truth or Fall for Anything

In the 70's, a popular saying was "*If it feels good, do it.*" Today we hear that same mentality expressed in sentiments like: "What's truth for you may not be truth for me." The saying has so thoroughly saturated our culture that our top value as a nation is tolerance. Tolerance today does not merely mean that you accept another person for who they are. No indeed! Today the term "tolerance" means you must affirm and endorse people's values and behaviors as well, if not you are a bigot or some other malicious creature.

If Jesus' teachings would be judged by today's standards, He would be one of the most intolerant, politically incorrect, fundamentalist extremists who ever walked the face of the Earth. He was dogmatic and subscribed to the idea that there are absolute standards of right and wrong.

Jesus rejected relativism. In Matthew 7:13-14, He stated; One can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for many choose the easy way. But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it. Many resent the fact that the New Testament has only ONE plan of salvation—Acts 2:38, they want a multi-plan salvation (just as they resent the fact that there is ONE and ONE ONLY, Living God—Jesus Christ).

In other words, all belief systems are not equally valid. As far as Jesus was concerned there was only one way to find life—His way. Every other path, every other religion or philosophy or belief system leads to destruction. Few find the way to real life.

If there is no absolute moral standard, then one cannot say in a final sense that anything is right or wrong. By absolute, we mean that which always applies to all people, that which provides a final or ultimate standard. There must be an absolute if there are to be morals, and there must be an absolute if there are to be real values. If there is no absolute beyond man's ideas, then there is no final appeal to judge between individuals and groups whose moral judgments conflict. We are merely left with conflicting opinions.

Buying into the idea of no absolutes opens a Pandora's box of stupidity on our lives. Without moral anchors we drift over the waterfalls of sanity.

In a world that regards all values, beliefs, lifestyles, and truth claims as equally valid - there can be only one universal virtue: tolerance. And, if tolerance is the cardinal virtue, the sole absolute, then there can be only one evil: intolerance. And that is exactly the attitude we see among the proponents of the new tolerance. This is a fascinating and horrific side of tolerance. The enemy becomes people who hold strong values and convictions. Strong faith is fanaticism. What used to be viewed as virtues are now condemned as vices.

Once there are no absolutes then our feelings become our guide and our god. Feelings are great followers, but poor leaders. If we're led by our feelings we'll never do anything that is painful or requires sacrifice. Feelings become more than your guide, they eventually become our god. Rather than uphold God's standards, which are clearly spelled out in the Bible, we opt for going on intuition and feeling. We have to internalize God's absolute truths to do what's right.

The Choice: Stand for Truth or fall for anything.

Matthew 7:13-27

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in therewith: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth

forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

We are seeing more and more of, what I call, "permission seekers" that try to find what the Bible does NOT say and seek to exploit it for license to sin. They are known by their frequent "chapter and verse" demands and refuse to learn biblical principles. They use the Bible in reverse.

The strategy of deception:

- Distort what God says by changing the emphasis.
 - Bring into question God's motive (always the result of twisted meaning).
 - Introduce reason that ultimately leads you to question God's goodness and integrity.
- Thrive on logic as being the supreme authority.

....Once that's accomplished it's easy to turn you against God's authority.

Don't forget – Satan led 1/3 of the angels astray from the very presence of God in heaven, and caused Eve to disobey in a perfect environment (she had never been abused by a husband, frustrated by kids, misused by a pastor, or mistreated by a boss).

Deception: To mislead by giving a distorted impression or false sense of reality. To trick; to cheat; to beguile. The ancient Greeks used the word to describe the pleasure that comes from watching the theater. Deception is being pacified and placated by unreality. Pain and confusion result from trusting false promises or believing a lie.

The Father's Will

A father died leaving a last will and testament for his three sons. The three sons read the will of their father.

The father left them 3 specific instructions.

- 1) They were to sell 40 acres of their ground in another county to cover the costs of the burial.
- 2) They were to take some of that money to dig another well on the farm to water the cattle.
- 3) They were to buy his stone memorial from a stone mason in a neighboring town that was his personal friend.

Well, the sons went to look over those 40 acres in the next county, and they all agreed that their dad was very wise in this. It was property that hadn't produced a good crop in a couple of years and it would help defray the cost of the funeral... so they put it up for sale.

Then they took a look at the well that had been dug years before and realized it was not meeting the needs of the farm. A deeper well needed to be dug. They all agreed dad had been very wise. And so - when they sold the 40 acres - they hired a man to come in and dig a deeper well for the farm.

Then, they went to visit the stone mason. They priced stones for their father's grave and realized this man was charging almost twice as much for his head stones as what they could get in a larger city about an hour away. So they didn't buy from their father's friend, but instead went to the far city and got their father's grave stone there.

Now, a question. The father left his sons with three requests. Did the sons obey their father? Did they obey their father

in two out of his three requests?

The real answer to the last question is, "no" they didn't obey their father at all. They only followed their father's wishes "when they agreed" with him. Why? Because once their father died, the sons became the masters of the estate... their father was no longer the master.

The sons deceived themselves into believing that they had done the will of their father. Why? Because it made such "good sense" it was so logical and while not exact that didn't matter because the end justified the means. If ever questioned the sons would have had such excellent answers as to why they deviated from the explicit wishes of their father's will. "We know what the will said BUT . . ."

How does that apply to us? Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). What He was saying was this... "I (Jesus Christ) am the Master."

No one else will serve to be the authority you can trust to give you total truth. You can't be that authority nor can any other carnal authority give you total truth. But Jesus can. Only Jesus has the truth because ONLY Jesus IS the truth.

No one has the right to change, amend, add to, delete from, or edit in any way the WILL of Jesus Christ. For instance, Acts 2:38 cannot be interpreted any other way except FULL compliance to its instructions. Also, the godhead cannot be added to and make a duality or a trinity out of "Is there any god beside me? Yea, I know not any!" When the Master said; "I AM the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, THE ALMIGHTY!" no one can disagree and make Him a member of a bogus trinity. The Master's will must be fulfilled as the Master willed.

In the arena of holiness there is a deluge of anti-standards advocates. These misdirected and evil influenced individuals are applying logic in fire-hose strength at every standard that the church has stood for over the ages. These guerilla fighters are sabotaging churches and even organizations with frightening stealth. The assault is primarily aimed at ministerial authority because no one can defeat the message without also defeating the messenger. These people are far from the Father's will.

To complete the WILL of Jesus Christ one MUST be exact! Don't be deceived, the Father's will cannot be changed and fulfill the true wishes of the Father Who gave the will. Many deceivers are in the land today teaching contrary to the will of the Father and proclaiming that they are truly fulfilling His will. "With their lips they do honor me but with their works they do deny me." "If you love me ye will keep my commandments."

Rev 2:1-2 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

Mar 13:21-22 *And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*

Rev 2:20-22 *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*