

I am amazed and often a bit frustrated at how complicated most Christians make the issue of absolute truth. While we all make life and death decisions everyday based upon assumptions (assuming other drivers will follow the rules of the road), many Christians and most non-Christians resist taking God's Word, and the standards it teaches, as the absolute authority.

My patients often ask me for help in making life decisions, and often there is a clear and applicable Biblical principle available to them. Even when I remind them of the scripture, which they already know, they seem resistant to apply this to their lives. My suggestion to follow the Biblical principle is often met with a blank look or an excuse for why this doesn't apply to them. I even remember a time when an older, widowed gentleman asked for a prescription for Viagra. Knowing that he was unmarried and a Christian (we had already prayed together that day), I questioned him. His response blew me away. He explained that the Biblical concept of sex only with in marriage did not apply to him. This concept only applied to younger people. What a statement from a man who I previously thought was solid in his faith. (after praying with him again, I did not give the prescription). While I was not surprised that he was tempted to minimize the spiritual impact of his unbridled sexual desires, his brazen rationalization of the scripture and how it did not apply to him was stunning to me. His struggle with sin was not surprising. His blatant disregard for the Scriptural teaching however was appalling and a bit scary.

I wish that this incident was isolated, but I see it every week in conversations with friends, patients, other staff members, and even within the church. People in general resist the idea that there is an absolute standard for human behavior.

Nevertheless, I have reached a firm, unwavering decision in how I will treat God's word. After 4 years of college (including secular philosophy classes, four years of medical school, and three years of postdoctoral training, after fourteen years of seeing patients and hearing their stories, and after 23 years of personal Bible study and teaching adults at church, I am firm in my decision: There is an absolute truth, God establish it, and He recorded it in the pages of the Holy Bible.

To me you can read and reminisce about it. You can discuss and dissect it. You can rationalize or run from it. You can fragment and forget it. But until you accept it, 100%, without mistake, without time, and without error, you really have not accepted it at all. God is either all or none. If He is truly the beginning and the end, if He truly is perfect, if He really wrote the Bible through men, if He really did establish the correct standard for life on this earth, then we have no choice but to look to Him for this standard...and follow as best we can.

Like many others, I struggle to follow all of the clear standards written for me in God's Word. I thank God daily that Jesus died on the cross, paying the price to cover my sin. I am thankful that, for the most part, I know myself when I cross the line from obedience to sin. I have decided to point others His way when I am asked about how to make life decisions. I am grateful that I know without question that His way is the right and absolute way. Since I know the author of absolute truth, my job has become to do the right thing based upon this standard, asking for forgiveness through Jesus when I don't. To me, it is really that simple.