

NOVEMBER 2025

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes

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UPDATE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THANKSGIVING

All of the Christian holidays are important, but perhaps none more so than Thanksgiving. Our world is horribly broken. Everywhere we look, we see darkness and depravity. All the signs the Bible tells us will accompany the last days are visible today. As a result, it is easy to become discouraged and disillusioned. More than ever, we need to be intentional about what we focus our thoughts on.

This is why Thanksgiving is so important. It gives us a day to focus on the many gifts God has given to us. No matter what our status in life might be, we all have much to be thankful for. We urge each of you to allow this day to teach you the right way to look at every day. The things you are thankful for today will also be yours tomorrow and the day after. Let God make your holiday a training day where you learn to think right.

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Christian Atheists"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not our goal. Our goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.

You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

Can there be such a thing as a Christian atheist? One would think not. A Christian believes there is a God and that He sent his son to die on a cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Conversely, atheists believe there is no God and that Christianity and all other religions are foolish ideas created by man. These two positions are diametrically opposed to one another. You cannot be a Christian and an atheist at the same time. Or can you be?

I hope by now I have captured your interest, and you are wondering, "Where is he going with this?" I will not keep you waiting. I want to talk about those who claim to be Christians but live like atheists. As I have said, an atheist doesn't believe there is a God, so he has no restraints in his life. He lives as he pleases, without ever worrying about someday standing before God and being held accountable for his actions. Such should not be the case with Christians. The Bible is very clear about the fact that someday we will all stand before God and our works will be judged.

1 Corinthians 3:13 AMP

13 Each one's work will be clearly shown [for what it is]; for the day [of judgment] will disclose it, because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality and character and worth of each person's work.

Hebrews 4:13 NASB

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.

On the day we stand before God, no one will be able to spin a lie so skillfully so as to deceive Him. The things we have done, and the things we have said, will be revealed and judged in righteousness and truth. All Christians are supposed to believe this, but do they? Based on what I have seen, I am

afraid some live their lives more like the atheist who does not believe there is a God they will answer to.

With calloused consciences, they weave a web of deception designed to lead people into believing a lie. Those who become trapped by this deception are soon injected with the poison of hate that separates them from their brothers and destroys them spiritually. Like atheists, these fakes live unrestrained, never considering the fact that someday they will stand before God and the truth will come out.

Unfortunately, that day has not yet come. So, how can we avoid being caught in their web of deception? In Matthew 7, Jesus said, "By their fruit you shall know them." All the lies in the world will never produce good fruit. Their fruit will look very much like the basket of rotten fruit described in Proverbs 6.

Proverbs 6:16-19 AMP

16 These six things the Lord hates;
Indeed, seven are repulsive to Him:

17 A proud look [the attitude that makes one overestimate oneself and discount others], (guilty)
a lying tongue, (guilty) and hands that shed innocent blood, (guilty)

18 A heart that creates wicked plans, (guilty)
feet that run swiftly to evil, (guilty)

19 A false witness who breathes out lies [even half-truths], (guilty) and one who spreads discord (rumors) among brothers. (guilty)

My add: (guilty)

Those who claim to be Christians but are guilty of these things, are not what they want you to believe. They are Christian atheists. You should not allow them to lead you astray. They will keep you obsessed with their evil plots and will hinder you spiritually.

God deliver us from Christian atheists!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“PRIDE vs HUMILITY”

The Bible plainly teaches that 'Pride' is very destructive. C.S. Lewis, whom some say had the greatest impact for Christ in the twentieth century, called pride “the great sin.” The late R.W. Stott said, “Pride is your

greatest enemy, humility is your greatest friend.” How true this is! I want to end this article on a positive note, so I will begin by examining what the Bible has to say about pride.

PRIDE

The first example we find of pride is Lucifer. Instead of recognizing his Creator and giving Him praise for what he had been given, Lucifer became filled with pride. The prophet Isaiah tells us what was in his heart.

Isaiah 14:12-14 King James Version

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
13 For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the Most High.

We need look no further to find out what pride is, or how it manifests itself. It gives no glory to God and does not seek God's help. Those who walk in pride have an attitude of self-sufficiency, self-importance, and self-exaltation. **The mantra they live by is, “I will.”** They refuse to seek God's help; instead, they rely on their own abilities, and they continue to follow the pattern established by Lucifer. John and I have observed that those who have been given the most are often the most susceptible to pride.

In the Bible, David is the best example of this. When he was young, he was humble. But after he rose to fame and power, he lost his humility and began to show all the signs of pride. Instead of trusting the Lord, David chose to take a census to determine the number of fighting men in Israel. David then saw himself as a powerful man in command of an invincible army, rather than a man who desperately needed God's direction and help. His pride soon led to God's judgment being brought upon Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:7 Amplified Bible

7 Now God was displeased with this act [of arrogance and pride], and He struck Israel.

I would like to conclude this portion of the article by examining some of the consequences of pride.

Proverbs 13:10 Amplified Bible

10 Through pride and presumption come nothing but strife. But (skillful and godly) wisdom is with those who welcome (well advised) counsel.

"Pride vs Humility"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Those walking in pride will always be surrounded by strife because they refuse to accept wise counsel. But it will not end there. Here is what the Bible says will follow.

Proverbs 11:2 Amplified Bible

2 When pride comes [boiling up with an arrogant attitude of self-importance], then come dishonor and shame...

TRUE HUMILITY

Now, let's consider what true humility is and what the benefits of it are. Humility is an attitude that recognizes our limited wisdom and abilities and acknowledges that we are in desperate need of God's help. When we possess true humility, numerous benefits will follow. According to God's word, we do not need to seek them; they will be added to our lives automatically.

GOD GIVES GRACE

James 4:6 King James Version

6... God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Most people think that Grace is "unmerited favor." Technically, this is accurate, but it is very incomplete. The Strong's definition of "grace" reads as follows: "the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life." This is huge! The proud man says, "I can do it on my own." The humble man says, "God, I need your help!" God says, "I will pour my grace upon your heart, and it will change your life."

GOD GIVES WISDOM

Proverbs 11:2 Amplified Bible

2...But with the humble [the teachable who have been chiseled by trial and who have learned to walk humbly with God] there is wisdom and soundness of mind.

GOD EXALTS THE HUMBLE

Luke 14:11 Amplified Bible

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled [before others], and he who habitually humbles himself (keeps a realistic self-view) will be exalted.

In conclusion, the Bible makes it clear that pride is a dangerous and destructive force—it separates us from God, brings strife, and ultimately leads to shame and judgment. From Lucifer's fall to David's moment of failure, we see how pride distorts our view of ourselves and causes us to rely on our own strength rather than God's. However, the good news is that true humility opens the door to God's grace, wisdom, and blessing. When we humble ourselves, acknowledging our deep need for Him, God promises not only to help us but to lift us up. I exhort you, choose the path of humility and experience the rich rewards that come from walking closely with God.

Psalms 20:7-8 King James Version

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.



CHURCH UPDATE

"The Secret To Church Growth"

We are living at a time in church history that has seen the emergence of mega churches. I refer to those whose membership numbers are in the tens of thousands. However, at the same time, many churches still struggle to experience even marginal growth, and some are in decline. Why is this? What is the secret to church growth?

We pastored Resurrection Fellowship for 32 years. When we arrived, the church had only 47 voting members, but we were blessed to witness remarkable growth, resulting in a church of over 3,000 at the time of our retirement. I share that only to establish the fact that we have some knowledge about church growth. God gave us an understanding of how to grow a church, and I would like to share it with you.

It all starts with the word "ministry." True ministry is simply touching people at the point of their need, and if you do this effectively, church growth will happen. Nothing can stop it. However, churches often use that word without truly understanding its meaning. As a result, they become a ministry that never ministers.

For us, ministry started by getting clear direction from God regarding which age group we wanted to target. We wanted to reach all age groups, but to achieve sustained church growth, we needed to focus on targeting one or two key groups. The church we had inherited was mostly made up of older adults. We loved these people, but we also understood that this demographic had to change if the church was to thrive for many years to come. Therefore, our focus was placed on reaching young adults.

We started by trying to figure out what their greatest needs were. You can't touch people at the point of their need if you don't know what their need is. This is not rocket science! We felt the greatest need of young married couples was to find a church

that really, truly cared about their children. Because we understood this, we set out to provide the best children's and youth ministries possible.

But now comes the difficult part of this article. Nearly every church claims to place a high priority on ministering to children and youth. But can they back that claim up? You have probably heard the saying, "follow the money, honey", and if you follow the money, you will find that they really don't place ministry to youth and children at the top of their priority list. The largest portion of most church budgets is typically allocated to debt retirement and salaries. Youth and children's ministries usually get the leftovers, and unfortunately, there usually isn't much left over.

Such was not the case with Resurrection Fellowship. I could write many pages about the things we did that were aimed at ministering to youth and children, but the best examples are Resurrection Christian School and the Rez Preschool. When Rez Preschool started, we provided all the facilities they needed, and never charged them any rent. We viewed Rez Preschool as a "ministry" of the church. Additionally, we invested millions of dollars to provide Resurrection Christian School with the facilities it needed to become one of the premier Christian schools in the nation. What most people don't know is that we also subsidized the school hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. Once again, we considered the school to be a "ministry" of the church. Obviously, there were other things we considered very important, but these were our primary focus.

In closing, every church needs to discover exactly what God has called it to do and then do it with a high degree of excellence. Included in this must be a mandate to touch people at the point of their need. If a church gets this figured out, church growth will happen. It cannot be stopped.

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!