**Counterculture** *(Series Graphic)*

What is **truth**?

(John 18:37)

“*Pilate said, “So you are a king?” Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.” 38 “What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, “He is not guilty of any crime.”*

**Truth:** An understanding of the facts that corresponds to reality.

1. **The cultural approach:** Truth is my perspective.

**Two outcomes of cultural truth:**

1. Truth is determined by **consensus.**
2. Truth is **fluid** because of **relativism.**
3. **The religious approach:** Truth is our tradition.

Both claims **could be false**, but both claims **cannot be true**.

1. **The scientific approach:** Truth is a collection of scientific facts.
2. **The Scriptural approach:** Truth is a person.

(John 8:32)

“And you will know **THE TRUTH**, and the truth will set you free.”

**Truth exists** whether you accept it or not.

The **absence** of truth creates **bondage**.

The **presence** truth sets us free from **bondage**.

(John 17:17)

“Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.”

God’s **WORD** isthe **TRUTH.**

(John 14:6)

“Jesus told him, “I am the way, **THE TRUTH,** and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

**Jesus is** the **TRUTH.**

(Hebrews 1:1)

“Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.  The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.”

Ephesians 4:14

“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever, they sound like the truth. Instead, **we will speak THE TRUTH in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ.”

There is a difference between **speaking the truth in love** and **loving to speak the truth**.

Matthew 5:43

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy.  But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!  In that way, you will be acting as **true** children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

 Following Jesus is a **countercultural** movement.