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The Truth Cycle

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The Truth Cycle

Truth demands action. When we are exposed to truth, it solicits a response — either application or evasion.

Romans 1 illustrates several principles about how to respond to God when He reveals truth to us.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of **men who suppress the truth** by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For **although they knew God**, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore **God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts** to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **They exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is for ever praised. Amen.

Because of this, **God gave them over to shameful lusts**. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural one... Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, **since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity... Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32, NIV, emphasis added)

Consider the portions of this passage that reveal principles about applying truth and what God does when His truth is ignored.

God made the truth about Himself understandable.

Creation reflects God's invisible qualities:

- His eternal power
- His divine nature

They did not apply this revealed truth.

- By glorifying Him as God
- By giving thanks to Him

Instead, they abandoned God.

- Their thinking became futile (senseless)
- Their foolish hearts were darkened
- They became fools who believed they were wise
- They exchanged the reality of a magnificent God for man-made substitute gods

Therefore God abandoned them to the degrading power of sin.

- They suppressed the truth so God gave them over to sinful desires for sexual impurity
- They exchanged the truth for a lie so God gave them over to shameful lusts
- They did not retain the knowledge of God so He gave them over to a depraved mind

This process is summarized in the Truth Cycle diagram:

 [The Truth Cycle](#)

The Truth Cycle explained:

1. As we live in ignorance, the Holy Spirit confronts us with truth and the Truth Cycle begins.
2. First, we must see the truth.
3. Second, we must understand the truth.
4. Third, we must value the truth.
5. Fourth, we must live the truth.

6. As a result, we are set free from the deceptions and bondage of sin.
7. While we are living in wisdom, the Holy Spirit continues to reveal new areas of ignorance and the cycle is repeated.
8. When someone is exposed to the truth but doesn't understand it, Satan comes and snatches that truth away so it will not take root later in their life.
9. It is possible to value the truth but not apply it because we feel it is too difficult or we become distracted by the deceitfulness of wealth, the pursuit of pleasure, or the worries of life.
0. We must choose the truth over ignorance at each stage within the cycle.

There are four key questions that reveal our heart attitude toward God's truth:

1. Am I willing to have my mind opened to the reality of God's truth?
2. Am I willing to pursue what a revealed truth means so I can comprehend how it relates to my daily life?
3. Am I willing to make the truth I understand a priority in my life because I believe what God has revealed is important?
4. Am I willing to persevere in applying God's truth so my thought life, speech and behavior will be pleasing to God?

Ask God to open your heart and mind to His truth, and to give you perseverance in choosing truth in every aspect of your life!