



Telling Myself the Truth

1Corinthians 4:3-5

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- “But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.”
- “The Ancient Greek saying ‘know thyself’ or ‘gnothi seauton’ (γνῶθι σεαυτόν) is one of the Delphic maxims inscribed in the forecourt of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi according to Pausanias.” (Wikipedia)

Telling Myself the Truth

- Knowing ourselves is more important than knowing others.
 - “He who knows others is wise; he who knows himself is enlightened.” (*Lao Tzu*)
- We cannot afford to lie to ourselves.
 - “To know yourself, you must first sacrifice the illusion that already you do.” (*Vironika Tugaleva*)
- It is painful to tell ourselves the truth.
 - “If most of us remain ignorant of ourselves, it is because self-knowledge is painful and we prefer the pleasures of illusion.” (*Aldous Huxley*)

Telling Myself the Truth

- Nowhere is accurate self-knowledge more important than in our relationship with God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The Gospel demands repentance and repentance requires an honest, healthy conscience.
 - Luke 13:3 - “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

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- 2Cor. 7:10 - “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
- “Conscience depends on clear self-knowledge; con - science from Latin verb conscire; from con- ‘with’ + scire ‘know’ (ourselves).” (*The New Bible Dictionary, Tyndale Press*)

Knowing Ourselves Is Difficult

- In one sense, we know ourselves best.
 - 1Cor. 2:11 - “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?”
- While we may know ourselves best, it is also true that we are often the poorest judges of ourselves.

Knowing Ourselves Is Difficult

- We must see ourselves as God sees us.
- God often helps us by sending others to show us that what we casually call “mistakes” are just as evil and harmful as the sins others commit.
 - David and Nathan - 2Sam. 12:1-15
 - Peter’s hypocrisy - Gal. 2:11-14

Knowing Ourselves Through Love Of The Truth

- Our salvation depends on our response to the truth.
 - 2Thes. 2:9-12 - “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”



Knowing Ourselves Through Love Of The Truth

- Luke 8:15 - “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”
- John 8:32 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Knowing Ourselves Through Love Of The Truth

- But the truth that we must love is not just doctrinal truth; it is the whole truth, including truth about ourselves and the sins we need to repent.
 - 1John 1:8-10 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Gen. 4:3-13 - "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.' 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?' 10 And He said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.' 13 And Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear!'"

Note The Great Contrast In The Attitudes Of Acts 2:36-41 And Acts 7:54-60

- Acts 2:36-41 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ 38 Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

Note The Great Contrast In The Attitudes Of Acts 2:36-41 And Acts 7:54-60

- Acts 7:54-60 - “When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”

Knowing Ourselves Through Love Of The Truth

- In order to be adequately honest with ourselves, we must want to know the truth of God's will AND the truth about ourselves more than anything else.
- The person who loves his preferred self-image more than the truth about himself will never enter the kingdom of God.
 - Matt. 3:7-9 - "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.'"

Knowing Ourselves Through Love Of The Truth

- Jesus' account of the Pharisee praying in the temple shows how out of touch with reality we can be when it comes to ourselves.
 - Luke 18:9-14 - "Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess." 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'"

Testing Our Self-Knowledge

- Do we pray for help in seeing ourselves as God sees us?
 - Psalm 19:12 - “Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.”
- Do we thank God in our prayer for friends who love our souls more than they love our relationship, who will not let us excuse or ignore our sins?
 - Gal. 4:16 - “Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”

Testing Our Self-Knowledge

- Do we pray asking to be set in circumstances that will make us see our true character?
 - Psalm 139:23-24 - “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”
 - 2Cor. 13:5 - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? -- unless indeed you are disqualified.”

Testing Our Self-Knowledge

- Do we pray for our secrets to be exposed and are we happy for the honesty it imposes on us?
 - Psalm 51:6-7 - “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Testing Our Self-Knowledge

- Do we pray for every fault which we have hidden from ourselves to be brought to the light?
 - John 3:19-21 - “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Testing Our Self-Knowledge

- Do we pray for help in accepting painful truths about ourselves, so that we can change our ways?
 - Psalm 51:8-10 - “Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. 9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
- These questions make us uncomfortable, but truth often has that power.

Telling Myself the Truth

- God knows us fully.
 - Heb. 4:12-13 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Telling Myself the Truth

- God will send us brethren who will lovingly help us see what is truly going on in our lives.
 - 2Tim. 2:24-26 - “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

Telling Myself the Truth

- We must never turn away from the truth about ourselves.
 - 2Tim. 4:3-4 - “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”