

12 Steps in Establishing the Case for Christianity

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

See Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: www.normgeisler.com

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD EXISTS?

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS TRUTH?

Why understanding the issue of Truth is important!

If there is no such thing as objective truth, then you can believe contradictory things like God exists and God doesn't exist at the same time and the same sense.

As a result there is no way to carry on! meaningful dialog!

As a result there is no way to do scientific inquiry!

1. Truth about reality is knowable

Jesus said:

"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32

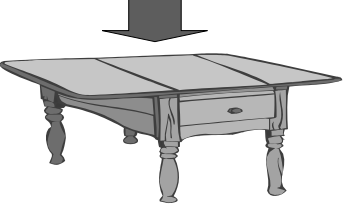
What is Truth?


Truth:


- Corresponds to its object.
- Corresponds to reality.
- Is "telling it like it is."
- Accurately expresses an actual state of affairs.

A true statement matches its object



“This object is a picture of a table.”



The Real Scotland 



Maps of Scotland

<p>Map - A</p> 	<p>Map - B</p> 
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The Truth About Truth

1. All truth claims are absolute, narrow and exclusive. (Even the claim “truth is not narrow” is narrow and excludes its opposite!)

Truth is Narrow





$2 + 2 = 4$

Where do you put food into your body? Your mouth you say? Why so narrow-minded?

Matt 7:13 – 14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

It Is Not Just Christian Truth that is Narrow
“Views of Salvation”

-  **Christianity**– by faith alone in Christ alone
-  **Islam**– by belief in Allah, his prophet Muhammad, and good works
-  **Hinduism**– by overcoming karma and incarnations with good works
-  **Buddhism**– by cessation of desire through eight-fold path

All Truth Is Narrow

The Truth About Truth

2. Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of anyone’s knowledge of it.

* Gravity existed prior to Newton

The Truth About Truth

3. Beliefs cannot change a fact, no matter how sincerely they are held.
 - I can sincerely believe the world is flat but that only makes me sincerely mistaken.
4. Truth is trans-cultural (2+2=4 here, there, and everywhere).

The Truth About Truth

5. Being raised in a given culture doesn't make the beliefs of that culture true.
 - * Our culture does not determine if something is true
 - * Becoming a Nazi while living in Nazi Germany doesn't make Nazism true.

The Truth About Truth

6. It is not determined by one's sincerity
 - * I may be sincere but sincerely wrong!
Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. (Matt 22:29)

The Truth About Truth

7. Just because I may have difficulty finding the truth doesn't mean that it doesn't exist at all.
 - * Just because people may disagree about whether a particular action is right or wrong, it doesn't mean necessarily that there are no right or wrongs actions anywhere in the universe?

Different Accounts

Just because people tell different accounts of what happened in an auto accident, doesn't mean there is no truth to be discovered!



• Summary of Truth on Truth

1. Truth is narrow
2. Truth is discovered
3. Beliefs cannot change a fact
4. Truth is trans-cultural
5. Our culture does not determine truth
6. Truth is not determined by ones sincerity
7. Just because I may have trouble finding the truth does not mean it does not exist at all

Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
 - * Truth is that which corresponds to its object.
 - * The truth about truth
 - * We can know reality. This is undeniable.

Undeniability implies that one can not deny something (Like saying there are no absolutes) without affirming it in the process of denying it.

Objective Truth is Undeniable

Example: Winnie the Pooh



Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
- 2. The opposite of true is false.**

A. The law of non-contradiction affirms that opposites cannot be both true.

The Law of Non-Contradiction Helps Us Discover Truth

Opposite ideas cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense.



The Earth is Round



The Earth is NOT Round

Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.

A. The law of non-contradiction affirms that opposites cannot be both true.

B. The law of non-contradiction is undeniable. Even those who deny it use it.

Sure-Fire Way to Convince a Skeptic!

“Anyone who denies the law of non-contradiction should be beaten and burned until he admits that to be beaten is not the same as not to be beaten, and to be burned is not the same as not to be burned.”

(Avicenna, Great Muslim Philosopher)

Christianity Judaism Islam One God	Atheism, Theravada Buddhism No God	Polytheism, Mahayana Buddhism Many gods
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Opposite ideas can not true at the same time in the same sense

Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
 - A. The law of non-contradiction affirms that opposites cannot be both true.
 - B. The law of non-contradiction is undeniable. Even those who deny it use it.

C. Therefore, the opposite of true is false.

Objections to Objective Truth

1. There is no such thing as truth!
2. You can't know truth!
3. All truth is relative!
4. It's true for you but not for me!
5. No one has the truth!
6. All truth depends on your perspective!

Your Greatest Tool in Answering False Claims:

Apply the claim to itself!

For Example. . .

1. There is no such thing as truth!

Apply the claim to itself!

For Example. . .

Objections to Objective Truth

Is that statement true?

- There is no such thing as truth!
- You can't know truth!
- All truth is relative!
- It's true for you but not for me!
- No one has the truth!
- All truth depends on your perspective!

• Summary of Truth

1. Truth about reality is knowable
2. Truth is that which corresponds with it's object
3. Truth is narrow
4. Truth is discovered
5. Beliefs cannot change a fact
6. Truth is trans-cultural
7. Our culture does not determine truth
8. Truth is not determined by ones sincerity
9. Truth is undeniable
10. Truth is non-contradictory