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Our God Is True

JOHN 17:3

Introduction

1. If you were to pick a profession that you considered the most trusted profession, what profession do you think that would be?
2. According to a 2018 survey by Forbes Magazine of "America's Most & Least Trusted Professions" these are the top five trusted professions in the U.S.
 - a. Nurses 84%
 - b. Medical doctors 67%
 - c. Pharmacists 66%
 - d. High school teachers 60%
 - e. Police officers 54%
3. According to that same survey, these are the least trusted professions in the U.S.
 - a. Members of Congress 8%
 - b. Car salespeople 8%
 - c. Business executives 17%
 - d. Lawyers 19%
 - e. Real estate agents 25%
7. You may be wondering where preachers fell in this survey. Of the fifteen professions included in the survey, clergy came in 7th place at 37%, just behind accountants at 42%.
8. One characteristic of people who are trustworthy is that they are truthful, they tell the truth.
9. In John 17, the apostle John records for us the prayer which Jesus prayed with

His disciples.

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10. In verse 3, He makes a statement from which I would like to draw tonight's lesson:

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3, NASB95).

11. As we conclude our series on "Knowing God" I would like for you to consider what Jesus is saying.

- a. To know God, "the only true God" is eternal life.
- b. So is knowing Jesus Christ whom He sent into the world.

12. If you and I are to experience eternal life, it is vital that we know them.

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I. Our God Is The Only True God

A. NO ONE ELSE MANIFESTS HIS POWER

1. The first statement we encounter as we open the pages of Scripture is "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
2. Time and again He commanded, and it came to be:
 - a. "Let there be light; and there was light" (Genesis 1:3)
 - b. "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters" (Genesis 1:6)
3. Through the ten plagues in Egypt, God demonstrated his power over His creation and especially over the false gods of Egypt.
4. As we have seen in our study of Samuel, God also demonstrated His power over Dagon, the god of the Philistines.
5. In the book of Job we find Job in his distress calling upon God to answer him and explain the reason for his suffering.

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6. Toward the end of the book the Lord does respond to Job. He does so with a series of questions for which Job has no answer.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding,

Who set its measurements? Since you know.

Or who stretched the line on it?

“On what were its bases sunk?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

When the morning stars sang together

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

(Job 38:4–7, NASB95)

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7. As God declared through His prophet Isaiah there is no one like Him (Isaiah 46:9-10)

“Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

Declaring the end from the beginning,

And from ancient times things which have not been done,

Saying, ‘My purpose will be established,

And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’”

(Isaiah 46:9–10, NASB95)

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B. NO ONE ELSE POSSESSES HIS CHARACTER

1. As we saw last week, our God is “compassionate, gracious, slow to anger,abounding in lovingkindness and truth” (Exodus 34:6).

“Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;” (Exodus 34:6, NASB95)

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2. He is patient, far beyond any patience we may possess (2 Peter 3:9).

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9, NASB95)

3. The fruit of the Spirit which is grow in our lives comes from Him (Galatians 5:22-23).

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23, NASB95)

4. All of these things in our lives are measured against the backdrop of the One from whom they originate — God.

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C. NO ONE ELSE HAS DEMONSTRATED SUCH LOVE

1. Moses told the Israelites that it was because of God’s love for the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.) that He brought them out of Egypt.

“Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power,” (Deuteronomy 4:37, NASB95)

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2. Through His prophet Jeremiah, God said to His people, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness” (Jeremiah 31:3, NASB95).
3. Time and again, we quote Jesus’ statement to Nicodemus concerning God’s

love for all of us and His act to save us because of that love (John 3:16-17).

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:16–17, NASB95)

9a

4. John draws from this and repeats its truth in His first letter (1 John 4:10).

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10, NASB95)

5. Only the true and living God can love us with such love.

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II. Our God Is A God Of Truth

A. HE ABOUNDS IN TRUTH

1. According to Luke, Jesus’ last words on the cross were “Into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46).
2. This was a direct quote from a psalm by David, Psalm 31:5.
3. The end of verse 5 contains these words, “You have ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth” (Psalm 31:5b).
4. This isn’t the only time that David connected God with truth.

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5. In 2 Samuel 7, after God revealed His plans to David concerning His covenant with him, David prayed to Him.
6. Toward the end of that prayer, in verse 20, we find these words, “Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.” (2 Samuel 7:28, NASB95)

11a

7. In His prayer which Jesus prayed in the Upper Room, He asked His Father to “Sanctify them [the disciples] in truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

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8. It is this truth of God in which we long for Him to lead us and teach us (Psalm 25:5).

“Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.” (Psalm 25:5, NASB95)

12a

9. We desire that He continually preserve us in His truth (Psalm 40:11).

“You, O Lord, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me.” (Psalm 40:11, NASB95)

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B. WE REALIZE THIS TRUTH IN JESUS CHRIST

1. In the prologue to his gospel, John wrote, “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17, NASB95)

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2. Earlier, in verse 9, John describes Jesus as “the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man” (John 1:9).

14a

3. To the crowd which followed Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee after His feeding of the 5,000, Jesus said, “For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.” (John 6:55, NASB95)
 - a. By “true food” Jesus meant that He is the real spiritual food and drink which sustains us spiritually.

- b. His flesh and blood give eternal life to those of us who come to Him for our salvation.

14b

- 4. To His disciples in the Upper Room, Jesus said, “I am the true vine . . .” (John 15:1).
 - a. Only by abiding or remaining in Him is our spiritual life sustained.
 - b. Apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Conclusion

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- 1. At the end of his first letter, the apostle John wrote these words,

“And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.” (1 John 5:20, NASB95)
- 2. Jesus Christ came into this world so that you and I might “know Him who is true” — God.
- 3. John wrote that for us to abide in God, “in Him who is true,” is for us to also abide “in His Son Jesus Christ,” who is also “the true God.”
- 4. To do this is to have “eternal life.”
- 5. Do you have eternal life? You do if you are in Christ.
- 6. How do you do this?

15a

- 7. In Galatians 3:27, the apostle Paul wrote “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27, NASB95).
- 8. Tonight, would you like to have this eternal life which is found only in Christ?