



# Reasoning with the Scriptures



## 4. What is Truth?

### Discussion Exercises

Play the role of both the Atheist and Theist

Christian	Atheist/Agnostic
<p><b>1.a</b> Hi! What is your name? _____</p> <p><b>2a.</b> Well its nice to meet you _____, I am glad we can continue our conversation. How do you feel about "Truth"? Can anybody know what the truth is?</p> <p>(As Christians, we believe the Bible has revealed "The Truth", Jesus said He is "Truth". The Bible reveals the reality of life)</p> <p><b>Exercise 1</b> What examples of "Truth" are knowable even for an agnostic or atheist?<sup>1</sup></p> <p>1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____</p> <p><b>3a.</b> _____ How do you "Know you cannot know truth? Isn't that a contradiction, you say you cannot know truth, yet you make a statement, showing you "know truth"?"</p> <p>(Many people believe truth is subjective and unknowable while at the same time they believe they are "Right" and "know truth". Here the Christian exposes the self-refuting statement.)</p> <p><b>Exercise 2</b> Can you think of other self-refuting statements people make?</p> <p>1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____</p>	<p><b>1.b</b> Hi my name is _____ What is yours? _____</p> <p><b>2b.</b> You know _____, That's a great question, I think many people have different answers on what is true. Personally as an Agnostic I don't believe you can "know Truth". We can all take a guess at it but we can't know it. (Notice the self-defeating statement made here, the agnostic says you cannot "know truth". How does he "know that is true?" If you cannot know truth)</p> <p><b>3b.</b> Well _____, You know what I mean; you are just playing word games. I merely saying, there is know way "know what reality is". Everybody has a different view of what is true, Atheists believe there is no God, Jews, Muslims and Christians believe there is a God, then you through in everybody else and you thousands of different "Truths". Are you telling me one view is right and others wrong?</p> <p>(Again the agnostic falls into a self-defeating position, he claims truth is unknowable, citing example of different religions, all while claiming "He knows" you "Can't know".)</p> <p><b>Exercise 3</b> What is the appeal of the above question in 3b?</p> <p>_____ _____</p>

<sup>1</sup> Examples of Truth: I exist, I can think, I can feel pain when pinched.

**4a.** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes! I am telling you one view has to be right and others wrong. After all you feel you are right. In addition, many of the different religions contradict each other. The Atheist and the Muslim can't both be right, one says *God exists* the other says *God does not exist*.. It just not possible for everybody to be right, no matter how nice it sounds.

(In our society we are trained to think everybody is right, and there is no such thing as truth... For this reason, a statement like one view is right and others wrong can come across as "Intolerant" and "negative". Think of a world where everybody is right and everything true.) Here the object is to help the agnostic/seeker understand, everybody cannot be right in a logical world.

**Exercise 5**

Give some example of contradictory beliefs which cannot both be right?

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**5a** \_\_\_\_\_ I understand what you wish were true, but its just not possible. We live in a real world, with real. Many scientist "Believe" we evolved from micro-organism, they teach this as "Truth". They believe this is reality? While I reject their reality, I believe God created the first humans (Adam and Eve). We can't both be right, Here are the options.

I am right, they are wrong  
I am Wrong, they are right

The same goes with existence of God, I believe God exists, the Atheist does not

I am right ....God exists, I am wrong...God does not exist.

So, how do we know who is right?

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**4b.** How is it possible to know who is right and who is wrong? Do you really believe just one person or one group has the "Truth" and everybody else is wrong? Do you know how arrogant that is?

**Exercise 4**

Is the agnostic is appealing to logic or emotion at this point?

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How do they statements make you feel about being right or wrong?

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What can you say in response? \_\_\_\_\_

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**5b.** So how can anybody know what is True?

**Homework (Truth)**

List the six Characteristics of Truth along with your own example:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Your friend illustrates relative (Subjective) truth using the example of the 6 blind men and the elephant, respond to their argument, showing its error, with the intent of helping your friend find "Objective" Truth.

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Why can't everybody be right? List 3 problems with every being right?

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Explain the Law of Non-Contradiction using some examples

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