

Christian Worldview
The wisdom of absolutes
April 28

Truth

Statements like: “There is no such thing as truth,” “All truth is just a matter of opinion,” and “There are no absolutes” are what philosophers call self-referentially _____ or self-refuting statements.

The _____ view of truth says that truth does not depend on a particular historical or cultural context.

Relative views of truth lead to a nihilistic view of _____.

3 theories

Coherence theory

Something is true and should be accepted if it _____ well with an established set of beliefs.

Weakness of this view is that _____ statement can be shown to fit with any set of statements or beliefs.

Pragmatic theory

What makes something true is its usefulness in accomplishing desired _____ in life.

The major problem with this view is that any statement can be _____ to different people in different contexts.

Correspondence theory

What makes something true is its correspondence with _____.

If truth is that which corresponds to reality, then it is natural to expect that true _____ will also be useful.

(Notes)

Scripture read: John 18:37-38; John 14:6

HOMEWORK

1. (Without looking it up) Write out your definition of truth.
2. Do you think that 'truth' is subjective in one way or another? If you answered "No" have you ever conducted your life as if it were subjective to a particular issue or problem? How did that work out for you?
3. Why do you think that people find a pragmatic theory of truth to be acceptable? What are the obvious pitfalls?
4. Why is it important for our beliefs and truth to be in perfect alignment?