

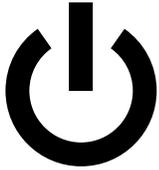


**Speaker:** Sean McDowell

**Title:** The Reason for Truth

**Summary:** The truth of Christ accords with reality.

**Key Verses:** John 14:6; 2 Thess. 2:10; Hosea 4:6; 1 Cor. 15:17; Rom. 2



**Power Up:** *Take a moment to prepare*

As a simple way to illustrate the importance of knowing truth, ask students to describe how they get to a new place without directions, a map, or GPS.



**Replay:** *Take some time to watch*

Note the flow of Sean's talk: **1)** three reasons truth is important; **2)** defining truth; **3)** understanding objective and subjective claims; **4)** morality as objective truth; **5)** the death and resurrection as objective truth.



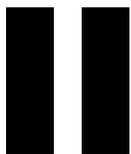
**Comment:** *Take some time to talk*

Sean says the biggest lie told to younger generations is that freedom comes from self-expression. **How do you see this lie perpetuated? Where do you find true freedom?**

**How do we confuse belief for truth? What is the difference between objective and subjective claims? Why does this matter?**

"When the topic shifts from morality or religion, people will change their definition of truth," Sean observes. **Why might people change their definition? What examples does he give in his talk? How do people contradict their own claim in the subjectivity of morality?**

After assessing five major world religions, Sean asserts, "All religions could be false, but they could not all be true." **How does Christianity stand out from other religions? How does Christian faith correspond to reality?**



**Pause:** *Take a moment to pray*

Thank God for creating a world that is reasonable, predictable, and good. Thank Him for our capacity to discover truth. Ask Him for discernment in moral decisions. Ask Him for clarity in speaking truth to others.



**Take Action:** *Make it personal*

Sean mentions several topics that Christian faith can truthfully speak into: abortion, sexuality, pornography, slavery, racism, etc. Choose one of these topics and begin to research what the Bible teaches about it.

## Bonus Features: Additional Notes and Quotes from Sean McDowell

Jesus is exclusive. He does not say, "I am a way, a truth, and a life." He is THE way, THE truth, and THE life" (John 14:6). This is one of 100x exclusive claims by Jesus in the NT.

**NOTE:** The absolute denial of absolute truth is self-defeating!

### 3 Reasons Truth Is Important

#### 1. Truth has consequences.

"False information can be destructive to self, friends, family, and nations... Truth helps us navigate life according to God's design... Truth is like a compass for life."

#### 2. Truth brings freedom

"Freedom is not doing whatever feels good to you. That's slavery. Freedom is living our lives according to reality... Lies bring slavery; truth brings freedom."

#### 3. Believing is not enough.

"If your belief does not accord with reality, it is lie (e.g. believing you're tall, rich, and famous, if you're not tall, rich and famous)... Satan's whole first tactic is to feed lies into our lives."

**Correspondence Theory of Truth (CTT):** A statement is true if it matches up with reality.

- The CTT is intuitive to humans; we do not always think it through.
- We accept CTT in mathematics, science, and history. We deny CTT in morality!

**Subjective Truth Claims** are personal and private claims that depend on the belief of the individual. (**Ex.** Chocolate peanut butter ice cream is the best!)

**Objective Truth Claims** are claims about the external world independent of what someone believes. (**Ex.** Too much ice cream increases insulin.)

**Critical Questions:** "Are moral claims more like ice cream [preferences; subjective] or more like insulin [external, objective]? Are we against slavery, racism, sexism, and abortion because we don't like it [subjective] or because it's wrong [objective]?"

"You know what someone believes about morality not by what they say or believe, but how they want to be treated." (Cut them in line, and you'll see Romans 2 is true!)

**Objective Claims about Jesus:** 1) Jesus was a carpenter; 2) Jesus died on a Roman cross; 3) Jesus resurrected as proof that He was divine; 4) Jesus fixed our sin problem.

"People don't die and goes to Hell because they don't believe in Jesus. People die and go to Hell because of rebellion against their Creator, because of a moral virus the Bible calls sin."

"Christianity depends upon the testable, single, historical event of the resurrection. If it happened, Christianity is true. If it didn't, Christianity is false."

"Don't guard your mind by your feelings. Guard your feelings by your mind."