

There is a Christ-given mandate to love the truth. Jesus, by being God in the flesh was also the Truth in the flesh (Jn. 14:6). Truth is the very essence of the nature of God (I Jn. 5:6). If you don't love it, you don't love God (Jn. 4:23-24); your religious enthusiasm is a sham and an exercise in spiritual bankruptcy (Lk. 13:26-27).

Of course, the Bible is principally referring to having faith in the *spiritual* truths of God when discussing "the truth." It is not meant to bring us into some enlightenment era of scientific and technical advancement. Yet, it is all too easy to spiritualize away how the Spirit of truth is appropriate to use in ALL facets of our lives. The Bible condemns unreasonableness itself (2 Th. 3:2).

If we refused to acknowledge that we made a math mistake, even though it was utterly proven that we did, that would be hostility to the spirit of truth even though it is not centered on religion. Mistakes are what we make because we are limited humans. But willful rejection of acknowledging those mistakes once revealed becomes an active resistance and hostility against the spirit of truth. It is an anti-God behavior.

Such will dangerously pervert our minds. Pathologies of lying are embedded in such dysfunctions and one does not need to be a psychologist to recognize this. It will lead to greater distortions of reason and into conflicts with both humanity and God.

It is not enough only to submit to the truth when it agrees with our preferences. We must love it above our own social, cultural, business, economic, relational, scientific, religious, parental and cultural perspectives and biases and be willing to be moved by sound proofs toward additional enlightenment. This mirrors our openness to God's revelation. In short, we are describing our willingness to repent and change and our desire to be faithful and grow; to be moved by God from the error into greater light. Otherwise, the *trip* never takes place.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding *Call to Prayer* series john@sojourn-cny.com