

# **“There Can’t be Universal Religious Truth”**

## **Sermon Reflection Questions – January 8, 2012**

### **Sermon Series “God Questions: Real Questions – Authentic Faith”**

We are entering our 5 month sermon series called “God Questions: Real Questions – Authentic Faith”. This will be one of the most challenging sermon series that I preach as I hope to solidify and strengthen the faith and understanding of those who are already believers as well as to help those who are questioning and searching. This first week we will focus on the nature of truth. Many believe that we can’t have universal claims on truth and so we want to investigate this from a biblical and theological perspective. We will understand this also from a philosophical perspective, as many people we engage with will raise philosophical objections to the Christian faith.

1. In your own spiritual journey or as you have interacted with others what are some of the biggest objections and/or questions that you have seen raised about the Christian faith?
2. Read John 8:31-47. Jesus talks about the truth as well as how the Devil is the father of all lies. Interact with the following questions:
  - a. What does Jesus mean when He says that “the truth will set you free”? (verse 32)
  - b. How according to Jesus can we be blinded to the truth?
  - c. How does Jesus compare God with the Devil?
3. How would you in your own words define what could be meant by religious truth? (I put a few words to express truth such as: Reliable, solid, correct, genuine, certain, right, honest, defining reality, free from falsehood, unchanging, constant.
4. Below are the common objections to truth, how would you interact with those who raise these objections?
  - A. There can be no universal claim on truth
  - B. All religious claims are equally true
  - C. All religious claims are socially conditioned
  - D. Every religion sees part of the truth, but none see the whole truth
  - E. It is arrogant to insist your way is superior to others
5. What is the interrelation between truth and faith and reason/proof?
6. What questions does this lesson continue to bring up for you?