

Neighborly Apologetics

2. Absolute Truth and Relativism



Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

with a priestly role in our neighborhoods

Neighborly Apologetic
Categories:

1. *Evil and Suffering*
 2. *Absolute Truth and Relativism*
 3. *“Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
 4. *Faith and Reason*
 5. *Free Will and Sovereignty*
 6. *God’s Existence and Nature*
 7. *Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
 8. *Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
 9. *The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
 10. *Miracles*
 11. *Science and Evolution*
 12. *The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*

Absolute Truth and Relativism

What is truth?

- introduction -



I am the truth
John 14:6

what is truth?

*For this reason I was born and for this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth.*

John 18:37

what truth is **NOT**

I am not the truth (Homo Deus)

Truth is not what my heart says

Truth is not what I believe

Truth is not what I want it to be

Truth is not democracy

Truth is not what the law says

Truth is not what “makes sense”

Truth is not sincerity or “meaning well”

what is truth *IS*

Truth is Reality

Truth is Absolute

Truth is logical, rational, solid

Truth is non-contradictory

Truth is bound up in a Person, The Person

Truth is freeing

Truth is critical

what is truth **IS** critical

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and its collapse was great.

Matthew 57:24-27



I am the truth
John 14:6

what is truth?

*For this reason I was born and for this I came into the world,
to testify to the truth.
Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.*

John 18:37-38

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

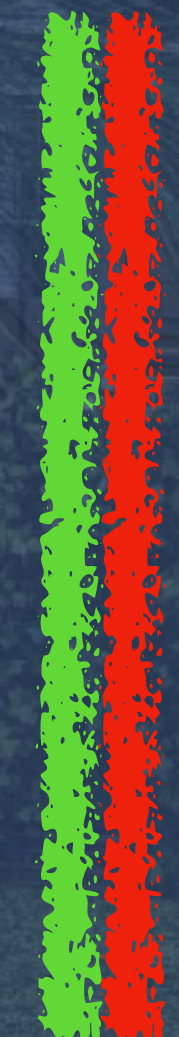
*and they can become vicious in this battle;
they can become militant and irrational*

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

there are sides

TRUTH



LIES

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

there are sides

TRUTH | LIES

We are from God, and whoever knows God **listens** to us;
but whoever is not from God does **not listen** to us.

This is how we recognize the
spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

there are sides

TRUTH

spirit of truth

LIES

spirit of falsehood



when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

there are sides

TRUTH | LIES

Even from your own number men will arise and **distort the truth** Acts 20:30

They **exchanged the truth of God for a lie** Romans 1:25

...those who are self-seeking and who **reject the truth and follow evil** Romans 2:8

...men who **suppress the truth** Romans 1:18

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

“This is how we know who
the children of
God are and who the children
of the devil
are...”

1 John 3:10

THE COSMIC BATTLE



Truth

Reality

VS



Lie

Illusion

1 John 3:10

“This is how we know who the children of God are and

who the children of the devil are...”

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

THE COSMIC BATTLE & CAPTIVES

The Lord's servant must gently instruct his opponents... "in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them **captive** to do his will."

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

THE COSMIC BATTLE AM I A CAPTIVE?

“See to it that no one takes you **captive** through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends upon human tradition and the elementary principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

Colossians 2:8

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

“...Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!...If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you **do not belong** to God.”

John 8:44-46

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

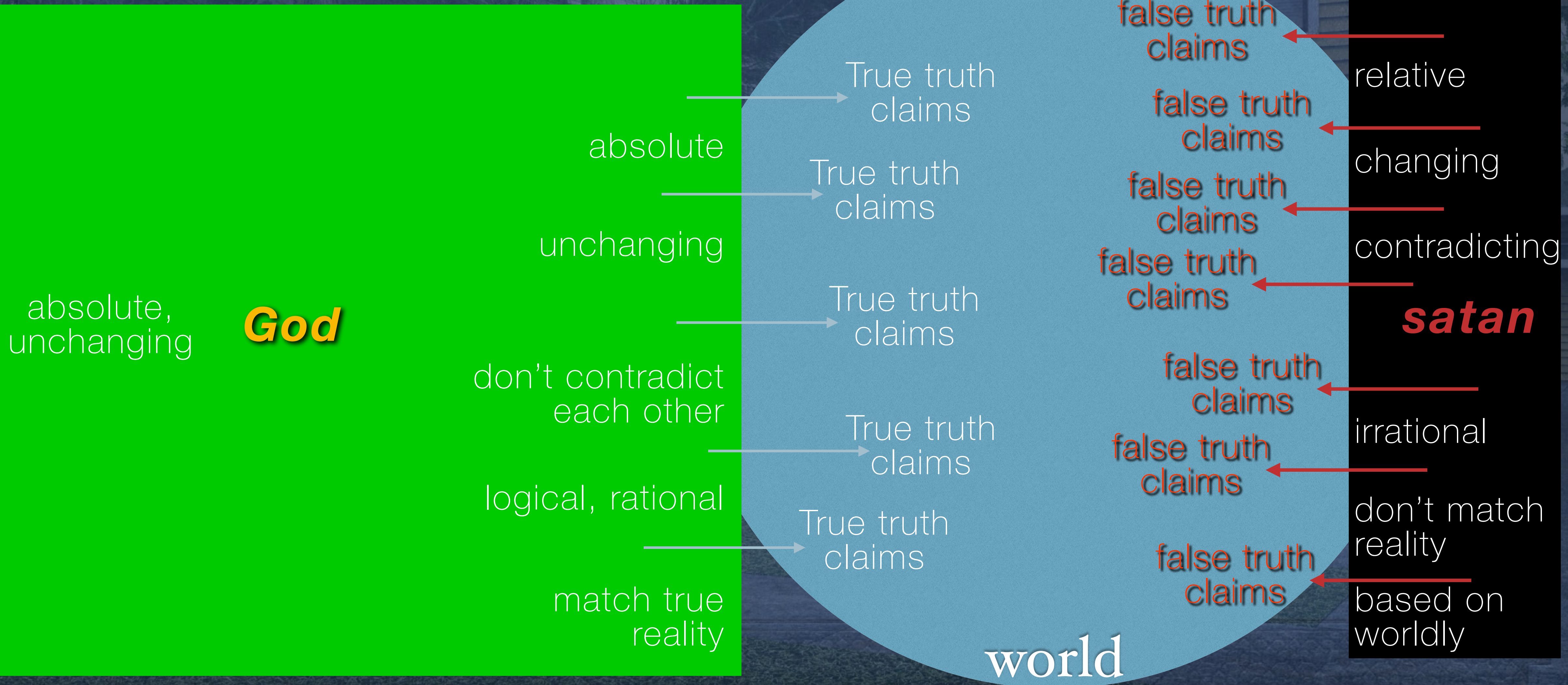
*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the **truth**, for there is **no truth** in him. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a **liar** and the father of **lies**...”

John 8:44-46

when it comes to Truth, people take sides

*Everyone on the **side of truth** listens to me.*



Absolute Truth and Relativism

there are no
absolutes

really?



Absolute Truth and Moral Relativism

what is **Moral Relativism** ?

when it comes to moral values and situations,
there are no absolutes

really?

what is **Moral Relativism** ?

when it comes to moral values and situations,
there are no absolutes

moral relativism truth claims come from:

- what I believe “Well, I just believe that...”
- what my heart tells me “In my heart I know that...”
- what I want (this will involve some kind of emotion)
- what the majority thinks “Everybody knows that...”
- what the law says “The Supreme Court/Congress ruled...”
- what works
“It seems to be working okay...”
“If it makes them happy...”
Lenin: “If it furthers Communism...”

what is **Moral Relativism** ?

when it comes to moral values and situations,
there are no absolutes

the issue of tolerance “Telling someone they are wrong is intolerant.”
really?

the issue of progressive ethics “We’ve come a long way from...”

the issue of malevolent compassion (who is the real victim?)

the issue of the internet mob (the unseen force in our times)

what is **Moral Relativism** ?

when it comes to moral values and situations,
there are no absolutes

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end
is the way of death.

Proverbs 16:25

next →

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