



WOW: Word Of the Week

Untruth

April 20, 2022

John Webster, in his contribution to the study of the influence of the Nicene Creed on Christianity (*Nicene Christianity*, cited in *Poured Out*, p. 138), notes the importance of continuously confessing our faith so that we participate in “a denial of untruth and a glad and courageous affirmation of truth.”

In our Christian churches where we at least give lip-service from time to time to the importance of truth (even if the topic is seldom seen as deserving an entire class or sermon), perhaps we would be helped by acquainting ourselves with “untruth,” which Webster says must be courageously denied. Distinguishing truth from untruth makes clear the existence of objective truth.

One of the most effective tools in the denial of untruth is to immerse ourselves in, and constantly affirm in word and life, the truth. Speaking and defending truth aligns us with a certain understanding of reality, an understanding that is more and more under attack in our contemporary culture and world (where one can simultaneously identify a variety of influences—post-modern, post-Christian, and the affirmation of relative and subjective truth).

Christians must be truth-seekers. Christians must spend time in the Word of God. Christians must know well the Word. Without continued Bible reading and study, well-meaning Christians will continue to believe and present ideas that are clearly contradicted by Scripture. Without a firm grounding in Scripture, one resorts to feelings and experiences. When our understanding of truth is based on our personal feelings, everyone’s version of truth is equally valid – your truth and my truth.

Most Christians attend church week after week without ever participating in faith confession, except to the limited extent that great faith truths may show up in the lyrics of our songs (which is less and less likely in today’s popular contemporary church music). As a first step toward truth, perhaps we should return congregational readings to a central role, sharing the story of God and confessing our mutual faith in the God of mighty deeds.