We cannot help it if the truth offends people, but we must always make sure that it is the truth that is offending them and not us. Martyn Lloyd-Jones Truth is treason in an empire of lies. George Orwell

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https://projecthumanities.asu.edu/christian-privilege-checklist

The table above is more than a bit worrying. The argument here is that we Christians are a part of the larger group of the "privileged" masses and we must leave our Christian faith and beliefs at the door when we engage with non-believers. No more bringing in Truths from the Bible and from our Christian traditions. The teachings of the Christian faith are no truer than any other person's claims to truth. Check the above website and you will find a list of 30+ Christian ways of thinking that must be "checked" before we enter into any dialogues.

This is because of our newest buzzwords: social justice, anti-racist, white privilege, activism. The list goes on and on and on. Are these all signs that we are becoming a more enlightened society, a more socially active Church? As much as I am tempted to believe that these vague, yet positive-sounding concepts are a step in the right direction, the distortion of our Christian faith is evident. There is a cultural shift happening. And it is not good.

This shift is not one that aims for equality or justice, as it claims. Today, anybody who does not fall into line with the approved policies and issues become a target and are "cancelled". Tagging someone as being homophobic, transphobic, white privileged, misogynistic or anyone of dozens more labels is a way of silencing voices trying to bring wisdom and caution to a situation where the world is acting on impulse and emotion.

Where We Can All Agree

"Well, that might be your truth but my truth is what I believe works best for me". That is a common enough way of thinking abounding in public discourse. All truth is now relative, a matter of personal conviction. Once someone identifies with one position or another their position must be respected as being their truth. It remains unassailable. This kind of thinking even applies to maths and science which I had always thought of as dealing with facts, observable, measurable, repeatable facts. No longer. Today there is a growing tolerance to viewing life from a personal perspective with little to no regard for what God has revealed to us as being The Truth. In what is surely a contradiction, there is now an abundance of truths (small "t" truths) with one truth being the equal of any other version of reality

There is no Truth apart from God

Nobody is arguing that we turn a blind eye to injustice. Nobody is denying that God calls us to "*do justice, love mercy, walk humbly* (Micah 6:8). Nobody is ignoring the wrongs and evils of the past. But justice requires Truth. As Christians, if the cultural view of justice is wrong, we must not follow it — even if we feel pressured by the majority to adopt it as being True. As Winston Churchill put it more succinctly: "Truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it, ignorance may deride it, malice may distort it, but there it is."

Of course, Jesus Christ himself set down the starting point for Christians, a way of discerning ***The*** Truth from the quagmire of an abundance of truths: **John 8:31-32** …*If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*….and then I am *the* Way, *the* Truth and *the* Life (**14:6**). Paul set down the one abiding Truth for Christians, the lens through which we must view all that our contemporary cultures throw up as being the norm, the reasonable and even the required way of viewing the world. He wrote in **Philippians 2:10-11**…*Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

All truth in the world must revolve around the person mission and ministry of Jesus who is God's Truth for the world…**James 1:18** *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created*.

Being set free by the Truth

Because lived experience is valued over objective morals, holding to the fact that the Bible outlines

two genders is inherently sexist. Even holding to biology is sexist. Women define what women are, not any other set of external universal laws. It is this kind of thinking that seeks to dominate and control all social discourse, and it shuts down all dialogue, effectively forcing people to agree and sacrifice our traditional faith.

Black Lives Matter, the abortion debate, gender issues, euthanasia, the recent referendum on Aboriginal rights, celebrity influencers, the list goes on. While there may be a semblance of truth in all of them, they fall short in terms of Biblical Truth. While the Gospel calls individuals to Christ, the social Justice Movement wants to lob all categories of people into one group – all whites are racist; all people of colour are oppressed; all males are potentially violent; all people claiming aboriginality suffer because of colonialism… Not true. God begins with me and my response to my call to discipleship.

Robin DiAngelo, one of the public prophets of critical race theory, has this to say about white people (all white people) … *You're a racist, pure and simple, and without a lifetime of conscious effort you always will be. You just can't help it, you see, because you've been swaddled in the cocoon of white privilege since you came sputtering out of your mother's womb, protesting the indignity of it all.* No mention here of the power of grace, that all men and women are in the image and likeness of God, no forgiveness, healing or the hope of reconciliation. We just are what we are. Damned.

What Jesus was doing when he went up against the leaders of Judaism, particularly the Pharisees, he was living and proclaiming the Truth in the face of personal interpretations of the Torah. The entire New Testament proclaims The Truth in the face of whatever the Roman Empire, the hypocritical Pharisees or any other individual or group was insisting is the "right way", is on the "right side of history".

What is truth? *Truth*, is defined by that which conforms with fact or reality. It is genuine. It is objective. It is real. Theologically speaking, it is that which is consistent with the mind, the will, the character, and the being of God. When Jesus said, "I am the way, and *the truth*, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6, emphasis mine), he meant that he was the self-disclosure, the very revelation of God himself in human flesh. Theological truth is thus very narrowly defined; Jesus said he was "*the* way," not one of the ways, to the Father. All subsequent truth about ourselves as men and women and the way we live in the world, live with others must begin with Jesus and his teachings.

Be prepared to be cancelled

None of this is new. The prophet in **Isaiah 5:20** records the following…people *call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter*. It makes it very difficult to stand out, but resisting this perversion of the God's truth is a must.

Living as faithful servants of God has been quite trying throughout most of world history. The prophet Samuel feared King Saul would kill him for anointing David as the next king of Israel (**1 Samuel 16:1-13**). During the days of Queen Jezebel, she "massacred the prophets of the Lord," which led Obadiah to hide 100 prophets in caves (**1 Kings 18:4**). When Jezebel threatened to end the life of Elijah, "he arose and ran for his life" (**1 Kings 19:2-3**). The faithful prophet Micaiah was insulted, struck, and imprisoned for speaking God's unpopular truth to King Ahab (**1 Kings 22:1-40**). The prophet Jeremiah was threatened, beaten, put in stocks, and cast into a cistern full of mud and left to die (prior to being rescued—**Jeremiah 20:1-2; 38:1-13**).

During Jesus' ministry, the hard-hearted, hypocritical religious leaders of His day continually sought to cancel Him. As soon as the perfectly meek and sinless Son of God began to reveal Himself as the long-awaited Messiah in His hometown of Nazareth*, all those in the synagogue…were filled with wrath and rose up and thrust Him out of the city* (**Luke 4:16-30**).

Early Christianity was born into a world of cancel culture. Jesus had prophesied that the apostles would "have tribulation" (**John 16:33**) and, indeed, they did. They were threatened, imprisoned, and beaten by their Jewish rulers (**Acts 4-5**). Herod killed the apostle James and then arrested Peter with the likely intention of killing him, too (**12:1-4**). Stephen was stoned to death for preaching Bible Truth to a "stiff-necked" people (**7:51-60**).

What enables us to offer a message of hope, of peace and justice to the world is our absolute commitment to the Christ's Truth. Today's Pharisees will seek to cancel us and oppress us but in the end, we know that by persevering in faith, God will win the victory.