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**MODULE  
TWO**

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# *STUDENTS IN* **ACTION** *BUILDING PRO-LIFE LEADERS*

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**CHRISTIAN  
WORLDVIEW:  
TRUTH AND LIFE**

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[ *“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”-3 John 1:04*

In this teaching module we'll build on our understanding of worldviews in general and the Christian worldview in particular. Remember, a worldview is the lens through which we see and make sense of life. In the first module we contrasted secular humanism (it embraces reason and personal experience while rejecting faith in God as the basis of morality and ethics) and the Christian worldview (a biblically grounded set of beliefs about all of life).

A key element of the Christian worldview is TRUTH. A simple definition: that which conforms to reality. For example, a pencil dropped from your hand falls to the ground. Gravity is truth! Or, the color of the sky. That's truth! When it comes to more complicated matters, like morality, you'll find some folks who are secular humanists embrace what's called “post modernism”. This is the view that everything is relative; there is no moral truth. For Christians holding a Christian worldview, we believe there IS moral, or absolute, truth. In fact, we believe in a moral truth giver. You'll also hear the term “moral law”. There is right and wrong in the Christian worldview. Of course, if everything is relative, which is the post modern position of secular humanists, then you really *can't* say *anything* is right or wrong!

/// ***Truth is a very important concept in the Bible.***  
/// ***Just one example: The word is used more than 200 times!***

This clip is from the movie *A Few Good Men*. A lawyer is questioning a Marine Colonel about his role in a marine's death.

Movie Clip:

**Lt. Kaffee:**

*If Lieutenant Kendrick gave an order that Santiago wasn't to be touched, and why did he have to be transferred? The Colonel, Lt. Kendrick, ordered the Code Red didn't he? Because that's what you told Lieutenant Kendrick to do. You cut these guys loose, you doctored the logbook, your coerced the doctor. Colonel Jessup, did you order the Code Red?*

**Judge:**

*You don't have to answer that question.*

**Col. Jessup:**

*I'll answer the question. You want answers?*

**Lt. Kaffee:**

***I think I'm entitled.***

**Col. Jessup:**

***You want answers?***

**Lt. Kaffee:**

***I want the truth!***

**Col. Jessup:**

***You can't handle the truth!***

In this example, there is the truth: the covering up of a Marine's death. Notice that Colonel Jessup didn't *deny* the truth. Nor did he say what you will hear a lot of these days: "This is MY truth". You see, for a relativist, that personalization makes sense. There IS NO absolute truth, so the word can be personalized: your truth, my truth, we all have our truths. The Bible is clear that Truth is not personal, it just is!

Truth: that which conforms to reality. There IS no pronoun!



***"Truth is unforgiving; it does not change if you have certain opinions.  
No one has ever made a belief true by believing it."***

**-Dallas Willard/Theologian-Philosopher**

Here is an illustration of truth that Christian writer and apologist (one who defends the Christian faith) Greg Koukl uses when speaking and includes in his excellent book, *Street Smarts*. He places a pen on a podium and asks the audience if it's true that the pen is on the podium. After the nods, he asks, "What *makes* the statement true?" Usually someone will say because they see it there. Greg then asks if they didn't see it, would it still be true that the pen is on the podium? Or, if someone says they believe it, he asks if they stopped believing, would the pen still be there? Greg's point: What makes it true that the pen is on the podium? It doesn't matter what you see or believe, the truth that the pen is on the podium is the *fact* that the pen is on the podium. He writes, "If the 'truth maker', the condition that makes a statement true, is something about the object itself—something out of us, so to speak, unrelated to our own thoughts, desires, feelings, or beliefs—then the truth is an objective truth." This is in contrast to one who believes all truth is relative, or depends on ones' own feelings or circumstances.

Here is an example of those who don't believe in absolute truth. The secular humanist puts her own opinion, or reason, at the center of her worldview, rejecting God as a moral law giver. Each one of us, in the secular humanist's opinion, makes the moral decisions. Now, one of the consequences of rejecting absolute truth or God who provides the moral law, is that you don't have a basis in which to say anything is *wrong*. They say you should not criticize another worldview for its beliefs, as all are equally valid. For the Christian, we know there are moral truths—right and wrong—that do apply to our lives and when any culture or worldview does not *live up* to these moral truths, they deserve criticism. (Also deserving criticism: those Christians who don't live up to the moral truths that they profess to believe.)

/// ***“I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality.” -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Pastor-Civil Rights Leader***

Here’s a real life example: In India, the Hindu faith has been the foundation of that culture’s worldview for the last 1500 years. Until about 200 years ago a tradition of the Hindu faith forced the widow to be killed on the funeral pyre—the wood where her husband’s body was burned. When the husband died, the woman had to die. When a secular humanist is asked if that’s OK, she really can’t criticize this practice. It was, after all, what the Hindus of India believed and carried out for centuries. But, the practice was banned at the urging of the British who ruled at the time. The Christian worldview that is the foundation of the British culture saw the practice as abhorrent. Why? Well, the Christian worldview says all humans are made in the image of God. Life, men and women created in the image of God, is sacred. A woman in India for centuries was allowed to live only as long as her husband lived. While that sounds, and is, outlandish, is it any more outlandish than saying a baby is only allowed to live as long as she makes it out of a mother’s womb?

Does this mean all those who hold a Christian worldview agree on all things because we believe in truth? Of course not. It simply means that we believe there IS a thing called truth. One of our jobs as followers of Christ is to find that truth—and live it out.

Is that hard? Oh, yes. As we know, man and woman appearing on the earth and telling lies has been a fact of life. That’s the truth. BUT, until very recently in Western culture, it was agreed that 1) there is truth to be known and 2) we should speak it. Now, as the culture becomes unmoored from the concept of truth, lying has become more pronounced and accepted. In fact, we came to the point in 2016 that the Oxford Dictionaries declared “post-truth” as the word of the year.

/// ***Here’s how it defined the term: “Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.”***

See what we have here? The fact that something is true or not doesn’t have the same influential punch! Or, better put, “I don’t care about the truth if it conflicts with what I want or believe.” Some even fear the truth. What’s important is only what **I** feel is important or right.

Whether people don’t believe there is such thing as truth—or don’t think you should share it because some “can’t handle it”—truth is the bedrock of the Christian faith. It has a big part to play in the topic of life. For example, if you believe there is a moral law, a right and wrong, then you can step back and say, “That is a human being inside the mother. It is wrong to kill an innocent human being.” If you don’t believe there is a moral law, or believe you are the best one to determine the morality of any law, then you can look and say, “There is nothing wrong with that woman deciding what to do with whatever is inside her.”

Here is a good example of a secular humanist’s view of life and truth.

Video: Dr. Peter Singer: (“The Big Conversation”)

***“The underlying ethic I hold is a utilitarian ethic: we ought to try to reduce the amount of suffering in the world, and we ought to try to promote the amount of well-being and happiness, wherever you want to describe it, in the world. And that I think that when you have children born, particularly with conditions that lead them to suffer greatly, or ones that are very difficult for their parents to cope with, and again, especially in societies that don't provide good support for that, then I think it's a reasonable choice to say. ‘I'd rather have a child without that condition.’”***

Dr. Peter Singer is the head of Princeton University's Center for Human Values. His is a secular humanist view of life and death. Remember the definition of secular humanism: It embraces reason and personal experience while rejecting faith in God as the basis of morality and ethics. He is not just all in for abortion, but also believes it is perfectly OK if you kill a deformed baby *after* birth. In fact, he says it's OK to kill young and old if they are a burden on society. Or, if they use too many of the earth's resources. This led to an interesting dilemma for Dr. Singer. While he's in favor of euthanasia, killing the elderly who are terminally ill, the truth of this position hit him in the face. You see, his elderly mother was ill with Alzheimer's—and didn't want to live—but Dr. Singer and his sister gave her medical care. His excuse told to the *New Yorker's* Michael Specter: “Perhaps it is more difficult than I thought before, because it is different when it's your mother.”

Remember, the critical question is the value of human life. It's not just the secularists who are in favor of abortion. We'll look at the arguments for the procedure in the next chapter. It's important here to understand that while Scripture is truth, there are always those who will twist the words to fit a narrative. When we argue that the Bible from beginning to end clearly professes the value of human life, some can take a verse or two and try to prove an inconsistency. For example, here's Michigan U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten, who says she's an evangelical Christian, speaking in the House of Representatives:

Video: Rep. Scholten

***“When I read the Scripture, I turn to passages, and I'm guided by passages like Jeremiah 1:5, which states, ‘I knew you before I formed you and placed you in your mother's womb.’ It doesn't say the government's womb or the speaker's womb. It says the mother's womb. I believe life is precious, but I reject the idea that if I embrace the sanctity of life, I also must be forced to invite the federal government in to regulate it.”***

You see that in Representative Scholten's mind, there is life in the mother's womb. She uses the Bible to argue that there is nothing wrong with allowing the mother to end the life. She even uses a well known verse that clearly illustrates God's connection between Him and the unborn.

Scott Klusendorf is one of the nation's leading pro-life advocates. He wrote the book *The Case for Life*. He provides a useful exercise when someone like Representative Scholten says the government shouldn't regulate abortion. Scott calls it, “trotting out the toddler” and asks, “Would the argument for abortion in this case still hold if you substituted a toddler for the unborn?” Would the congresswoman be OK if the government allowed toddlers to be killed at the whim of the mother? If not, why not? What is the difference between the human being in the womb and the human being walking in your living room?

Understanding the importance of truth, and the impact it has as we live out our faith, is a critical part of those big life questions discussed in the last module.

*Standing for the truth helps us all answer these questions!*

### **APPLY KNOWLEDGE POINT**

- o What good can we celebrate, protect, promote, and preserve?
- o What is missing that we can contribute?
- o What evil can we stop?
- o What brokenness can we restore?

**“Truth vs. Post Modern, age of relativism.”**

*A common refrain you’ll hear from those who don’t believe Christian values should influence the culture at large—for example, when debating the abortion issues—is “Don’t force your morality on me.” Are there examples of “moral laws” these people are glad are in place?*