Biblical Christians in Culture. *Looking at the world through the lens of The Word.*Discovering, applying biblical Truth,confronting untruth with Truth.

Ep. 4: A Matter of ‘Taste’ or ‘Truth’?

Many say they have the truth. If so, boundaries for truth are individualistic. If God is eternal and created the world, then there is an outside standard of ethics for everyone to follow.

*REPEATED THEMES 1. Belief affects behavior and behavior affects belief. 2. Everyone everywhere has assumptions, pre-thinking. 3. Christian thinking is molded by Scripture’s commands, principles, & doctrine 4. Everyone has “doctrine” that forms their thinking. 5. Doctrine influences living.*

Right or Wrong? True or False? Good or Bad? What do jokes assume? *E. B. White* (*Charlotte’s Web) “Humor plays close to the white, hot fire of truth” From a biblical perspective “cosmic” and “comic”* *A Simple Plan*, *On the Waterfront*, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, *Mimic, Changing Lanes*, *Jurassic Park*

What do all people everywhere expect from Truth? (1) Consistency, stability (2) Universality

Where does Truth come from?**Transcendence** is a foundation for ethical behavior, personal decisions.

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| **Taste—**preference; personal likes / dislikes |
| **Temporary**—opinion based on current information |
| **Truth**—reliability, trustworthy, consistent basis for law |
| **Timelessness**—eternal, changeless law for all people, places, time |
| **Transcendence**—an outside source for personal and societal law |

Applications of Ethical Truths (1) Transcendence people made in God’s image (2) Timeless people are persons not producers (3) Truth All people are equal (4) Temporary Hoosiers are my people (5) Taste I like to spend time with friends.

God: The arbiter of Ethical Truth Numbers 23:19, *“God doesn’t lie or change His mind”* (See also 1 Samuel 15:29 and Malachi 3:6); Deuteronomy 32:4, *“his works are perfect, his ways are just, a faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”* Psalm 119:160, *“All your righteous laws are eternal”*

Isaiah 65:16, *“by the God of truth”* (That is, truth has its origin in God.) *All Truth is God’s Truth* (Ps 119:152, 160; 1 Kings 3:1-15; 4:29-34; 10:1-9).Study biblical words “truth”, “eternal”, “righteousness”, “perfect”, “justice”, and “faithfulness” all based on eternal foundations.

Convictions Why Christians may agree to disagree about matters of “taste”

Absolutes: *Is “the truth” possible*? (Rom 1:18-31) *Can all know wrong?* (Rom 2:14-15). *What do people do with that knowledge?* (Rom 1:18). *How should Christian people respond?* (Rom 16:17-19)

**Questions: Where Do We Go from Here**

*When you stream shows ask yourself, “Who is the ‘bad guy’?” or “Why does it seem the Russians are always behind every negative plotline?” or “Why are certain countries or groups never ‘bad’?” How do you expose untruth with truth in everyday life with other worldviews? How and why have you established standards whereby you will live your life? How are you passing on the standards of Scriptural truth in ways others can understand & practice? Was sex, violence, or evil sensationalized, glorified, or glamorized in the film? If so, what ways could be noted? Was sex, violence, or evil necessary for the development of the story? Is this acceptable in the visual arts? Why or why not? Characters make ethical choices in film that drive the story line. Can you tell the perspective of the filmmaker in the moral selections made? Was the alternative ethical option explained positively, negatively, or with ambiguity? Why does the answer to this question matter? What was the rationale for those ethical choices? Can you identify what it was (e.g., selflessness, fighting-fire-with-fire, everyone is doing it, they’ve got it coming, it’s OK as long as I do not personally profit, etc.)*