

Opinion, Conviction and Truth

Opinion: that which a person thinks about a given subject. It may be a strong opinion or just the way a thing is perceived; such can be altered. However, strong opinions can become convictions and become quite harder to modify or influence. We speak of public opinion which is a general perception susceptible to be influenced by charismatic leaders and the media. Many so-called influencers on the Internet have little impact on public opinion.

Conviction: Certainty based on information deemed true and sure, often in the realm of religious belief, or political views. Convictions are often developed through strong influences and opinions and become harder to alter. Opinions or convictions cannot be used as a basis for truth as there could be as many of these as there are people who think and perceive differently. Influences have as an objective to firm up or even alter opinions and convictions. It is important to know the source of such influence. Often clothed in a discourse of love and justice, influences can very well have underlying motives that are not such.

Truth: A man once asked the question "*What is truth?*" (John 18:38). Unfortunately he did not stay around to hear the answer. Like this man, many suggest that truth is relative and cannot be affirmed with certainty. That cannot be. One dictionary defines truth as certainty based on evident proof. If something is red, no matter what opinions or convictions may differ, it is still red. If something is said to be burning hot, no matter the opinions or convictions that differ, would you put your hand on it? It would depend if you believed the person who said it was burning hot. I personally would not take any chances. Surprising to notice that many evident proofs are being ignored and overturned today. The "theory of evolution" (falsely called science of evolution) is absolutely without proof yet believed to be true and even daringly thought to be science. It is a denial of simple intelligent observation; moral blindness alone can explain such contradiction.

Declared truth: The Lord Jesus said: "*I am the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6). Receiving or refusing this statement makes Him either truthful or a liar. And again, He also said "*Thy word is truth*" (John 17:17) referring to the Holy Scriptures. Now these two declarations need to be considered carefully as there are consequences to their neglect or refusal. Who is the liar? The Bible answers without hesitation: "*Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son.*" (1 John 2:22).

We are not about to argue over opinions or challenge anyone's convictions but we are bound by God's love for you to set the truth before you, praying you will reconsider both your opinions and convictions and align them promptly with the truth from God. Notice God's wonderful gift also includes a severe warning as stated clearly in the most quoted verses from the Bible: "*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God*". (John 3:16-18).

Michel for Vision 2020 in 2023

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