

Half-Truth Christianity

Series: Sustainable Faith: The Word

2 Corinthians 11:14 (0936)

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MYRON BOYD *A half-truth is a dangerous thing, especially if you have got hold of the wrong half.*

I. Understanding the challenges of half-truths

a. Half-truths generally sound reasonable

2 Corinthians 11:14 NIV ... *Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

b. The deceit of half-truths often go unstated and unrecognized

E. R. BEADLE *Half the work that is done in the world is to make things appear what they are not.*

c. The long biblical history of God's people confronting half-truth

Job 4:7-8 NLT (Eliphaz) ⁷*“Stop and think! Does the innocent person perish? When has the upright person been destroyed?”* ⁸*My experience shows that those who plant trouble and cultivate evil will harvest the same.*

Job 8:6, 20 NLT (Bildad) ⁶*if you are pure and live with complete integrity, he will rise up and restore your happy home. ...God will not reject a person of integrity, nor will he make evildoers prosper.*

Job 11:4-6, 13-15 NLT (Zophar) ⁴*[Job], You claim, ‘My teaching is pure,’ and ‘I am clean in the sight of God.’* ⁵*If only God would speak; if only he would tell you what he thinks!* ⁶*...God is doubtless punishing you far less than you deserve! ...* ¹³*“If only you would prepare your heart and lift up your hands to him in prayer!* ¹⁴*Get rid of your sins and leave all iniquity behind you. ¹⁵Then your face will brighten in innocence. You will be strong and free of fear*

Job 42:7 NLT ⁷*After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite: ‘I am angry with you and with your two friends, for you have not been right in what you said about me, as my servant Job was.*

HENRY GLAPTHORNE *The devil sometimes speaks the truth.*

Matthew 4:5-7 NLT ⁵*Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He orders his angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.’”* ⁷*Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’”*

Galatians 1:6-7 NLT ⁶*I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who in his love and mercy called you to share the eternal life he gives through Christ. You are already following a different way ⁷that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ.*

II. “Everything happens for a reason”

a. The biblical truth behind this statement

Galatians 6:7 NLT ⁷*Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow!*

Scientific method *The scientific method is a process for experimentation that is used to explore observations and answer questions. Scientists use the scientific method to search for cause and effect relationships in nature. In other words, they design an experiment so that changes to one item cause something else to vary in a predictable way*

b. The potential deceit of this statement

AESOP (550 B.C.) *Beware lest you lose the substance by grasping at the shadow.*

c. The balance the Bible brings to this statement

2 Peter 3:9 NIV ⁹*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Matthew 7:13-14 NLT ¹³*You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it.*

Matthew 23:37-38 NLT ³⁷*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. ³⁸And now look, your house is left to you, empty and desolate.*

TIM HANSEL *No truths are simple, especially those of Scripture. But as we pursue them and participate in them more fully, they begin to reveal to us a life deeper and more integrated than we ever could have known otherwise.*