



The Web of Truth



What is truth?

- Do we discover it?
- Do we construct it?
- Do we participate in it?
- Is it absolute?
- Is it relative or provisional?
- How does truth relate to knowledge?



Are we still interested in truth in the school context?

Or are we more concerned with:

- 'positive thinking'
- 'positive attitudes'
- public opinion / consensus
- information
- emotional gratification
- personal views



Some thoughts about 'Truth'




No amount of experimentation can ever
prove me right; a single experiment can
prove me wrong.

Albert Einstein

There are no creeds in mathematics.

Peter F. Drucker



A historian who would convey the truth must lie. Often he must enlarge the truth by diameters, otherwise his readers would not be able to see it.

Mark Twain

If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed.

Mark Twain



There is no such thing as inaccuracy in a photograph. All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth.

Richard Avedon

It is one thing to show a man that he is in error, and another to put him in possession of the truth.

John Locke



I have come to believe that the whole world is an enigma, a harmless enigma that is made terrible by our own mad attempt to interpret it as though it had an underlying truth.

Umberto Eco



Truth is restricted by our ability to
understand it.

Immanuel Kant

We know the truth, not only by reason,
but also by the heart.

Blaise Pascal



The language of truth:

- in science
- in literature
- in mathematics
- in art
- in social science
- in music



The Bible and truth

- The Bible as revealed truth
- The truth of God in the words of human beings
- But God is bigger than his revelation in the Bible
- God continually shatters my reality – I need to be open to being wrong



What is truth ? [John 18:39]

- I am the way, the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except by me. [John 14:6]
- You will know the truth and the truth will set you free. [John 8:32]
- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth [John 16:13]
- He who is of the truth hears my voice [John 18:38]



The truth about God
and
the truth about myself
and the world



Revelation and Reason

- The two ways through which God reveals truth:
 - The gift of reason
 - The gift of revelation
- Our use of both revelation and reason are limited by human sin



Our knowledge of sin forces us to acknowledge that we cannot know the truth entirely, that our eyes are blinded by sin, that our understanding of God and his creation and ourselves is only ever partial. However, that does not negate God's truth nor our recognition of Christ, who is himself the . . .truth.



The truth about God

- the ultimate truth about God is in his revelation of himself in Jesus Christ
 - in God's word and our interpretation of that word
 - in our experience of Jesus Christ in our lives
 - in sharing in the experiences of others
 - a truth in relationship
 - a gift of the Holy Spirit



The truth about myself

- Revealed in my encounter with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit
- Reveals my sin [constructing my own reality] and my need of forgiveness
- Frees me to be the person God created me to be [fully human as Christ was fully human]
- Frees me to be 'of the truth'



Truth and Freedom

‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ [John 8:31,32]

- Free from illusion, fantasy, lie, distortion
- Free to encounter truth/reality outside of myself
- Free for relationship with God and the world
- Free to be the person God created me to be



The truth about the world

- I am free to explore the world through reason, recognising its limitations
 - A way to analyse and evaluate and come to provisional truth
- I encounter the truth of the world through revelation
 - God's wisdom which is beyond human wisdom

[1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:16]



‘Doing the truth’ [John 3:21] in the school

The teaching ***of*** a way of life:

1. teaching ***about*** a way of life;
2. teaching ***into*** a way of life;
3. teaching ***in*** a way of life.



‘Doing the truth’ [John 3:21] in the school

- Creating an environment which forms the character, the heart, the conscience



Our truth relationship with God
has less to do with
what we know about God
but
everything to do
with what God knows about us