

The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer
Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land
1 Peter, 2 Peter, Christian Vocation, and the Table of Duties

6 Relativism and Disorder VS. Truth and the Order and Beauty of Creation

Introduction:

- For whom is this discussion? To comfort and build up Christians. To protect the Christian congregation and the Christian marriage and family. To protect Christian children. To be given the answer for the hope that lies within us.
- What are the goals? We are to be experts in Jesus, answering the challenges to the Christian faith from the Scriptures based on Christology and the Gospel. We are to learn and rejoice in the blessed hope and salvation we have in Christ and how this brings order and beauty into our lives.
- Why? Because we are disciples of Jesus, we testify in our preaching, living, and witness to one another and to the world to Him—"to this Life" which is good and beautiful and the source of salvation. (Acts 5:20)

What is relativism and to what does it lead?

There is no absolute truth, truth is relative and subjective, each person decides truth for himself, it leads to a denial of natural Law, the destruction of the body and soul, mental and spiritual illness, disorder and chaos, and a breakdown of the communal structures of marriage, family, community, culture, society, and government. It is fundamentally self-centered and selfish. It is totalitarian and subjugates all who oppose "the truth" that is not anchored in the objective truth of God's Word and natural Law. It is not open to reason but opposed to reason. It is not open to scientific investigation but opposed to it in favor of its chosen world view. Relativism leads to atheism and a rejection of divine authority. Relativism leads to a rejection of Christ.

(Christians have often been led to jettison their faith, when their faith conflicts with what their subjective will WANTS to do. A troubled conscience is a powerful thing. If a troubled conscience is not relieved by God's Word, which calls one to repentance and faith, it may reject the faith entirely in favor of its own view of morality in order to live with itself, e.g., a child who goes off to college and is swept up into activities that he knows are wrong, his flesh desires to them, these activities conflict with his faith and what he knows to be right, so he renounces his faith in order to cope with the guilt.)

Where does relativism come from?

The rejection of absolute morality and truth stems directly from Adam's fall into sin and the breach that it caused in his relationship to God. (Genesis 3, 6, 9; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 15:19; Romans 7:18, etc.)

(All humanity, including Eve, descended from Adam's flesh and from Adam's fall [Romans 5; 1 Peter 2:13-14]. The church needs to hold on to the proper use of masculine and feminine pronouns in doing theology, confessing the faith, and in discourse with one another. We should not acquiesce in our conversation to the world's assertion that these pronouns are from an outmoded, misogynistic, patriarchal worldview that subjugates women. The masculine and feminine pronouns capture the beautiful order of God's creation in the giving and receiving of life and love, wisdom and virtue, compassion and care in marriage, family, society, and church).

The corruption of original sin distorts the capacity for man to act positively on the natural law that is written in his heart apart from the positive influence of divine truth from outside himself. The corruption of original sin clouds all human judgment and reason and makes them subject to a warped will that is turned inward and is in bondage to sin and disorder apart from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of truth. (Third Article)

What is truth? (The real question is “Who is Truth?”)

Jesus is objective truth because He is incarnate self-giving love, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the express image of God the Father, through whom all things were created, by whom all things are held together, and by whom all things are redeemed to enjoy life with God in the eternal fellowship of the Holy Trinity.

- **Jesus describes Himself:** “I am the way (odos), the truth (alatheia), and the life (zoa). No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6
- **All the “I AM” statements of John’s Gospel** not only link Jesus to God’s self-revelation to Moses at the burning bush, but they also proclaim Him to be the source of all life, goodness, beauty, truth, and the One whose ultimate self-giving sacrifice of love upon the cross gives meaning, purpose, order, and fulfillment to the lives God has given us to live.
- **Paul’s confession of Jesus in Colossians**
- **The Apostle to the Hebrews**
- **Jesus Before Pontius Pilate:**
- **The Apostle Peter’s Catechesis on Jesus before Pilate in 1 Peter 3:**
- **The Apostle Peter’s Blessing and Encouragement in 2 Peter 1:**

To what does truth lead?

To the order and beauty of a faith and life that is lived in Christ and from Christ, who is the light of the world.

The Small Catechism, in the Ten Commandments and Table of Duties, describes the life of faith in the Gospel of Christ to which we are called. The positive descriptions in the explanations of the Ten Commandments articulate what Christ is for us in His active love for God and for others, and what He gives us the privilege to live in for others through faith in Him. These descriptions articulate objective truth, which is beautiful, because it is anchored in Christ’s love for God and for one another. Everything that the first Adam and his descendants failed to be, every lie and deception of the relativistic self-centered world that gives no real peace, joy, or fulfillment is answered by the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. Here we see what it is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

See 1 Peter 4:1-16. Peter makes clear that the foundation of our life as Christians rests upon the atonement of Christ, who is our righteousness. This life cannot be lived apart from the preaching of the Gospel and the sober life of prayer. It is a life of love toward one another within the Church and toward those who are hostile to us outside the church. It is a life of compassion, hospitality, unwavering confession of Christ, and rejoicing under suffering.

The Example of 911 and the Triumph of Natural Law and the Eternal Truth of Sacrificial Love