

The Call to Unity

A Divine Mandate

What does it mean to “purify your soul”?

Since you have **purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren**, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...

(1 Peter 1:22-23)

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The Call to a Unifying Truth

A Call to which Cohort? (John 18:37)



A Call to Discernment

A Key Capability of the Divine Truth Cohort

Matthew 16:1-4

- Religious elite able to “discern the weather” but not the “prophetic signs”.

2 Corinthians 11:1-4

- [False Doctrine]...”you will put up with it!” Illustrates a Lack of Discernment.

2 Thessalonians 5:16-22

- “Do not despise Revelation (i.e. preaching).” Scripture, discernment, testing.

2 Timothy 2:15-17

- Practice doctrinal precision. Avoid the dogmas of self-image and self-worth influencers.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 ; 11-16

- Guard the Truth. Gain skills for distinguishing truth from falsehood and from half-truth.

1 John 2:20-29

- Constant conflict – The Truth vs. Lies. Abide in Him and His Teaching.

How to Discern Truth

A Biblical Call to Discernment

1 Thessalonians 5:21–22

“Test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”

→ Paul calls believers to actively **evaluate teachings and influences** rather than accept them blindly.

1 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”

→ A direct command to **discern between truth and deception**, especially spiritual and doctrinal influences.

Hebrews 5:14

“But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

→ **Discernment develops through spiritual maturity** and disciplined practice.

Matthew 7:15–20

“By their fruit you will recognize them.”

→ Jesus teaches **discernment by evidence**—truth is recognized by the fruit it produces.

The Art of Deception

Discernment counters Deception

“All warfare is based on deception.” — *Sun Tzu, The Art of War*

Church Application: Misunderstanding and deception—intentional or not—are strategic tools of spiritual warfare. Division in the church often begins when truth is distorted or obscured.

“The first casualty of war is truth.” — *U.S. Senator Hiram Johnson (1917)*

Church Application: In times of tension or disagreement, truth is often compromised by fear, pride, or presupposition—undermining unity.

“In war, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.” — *Winston Churchill*

Church Application: When believers begin to guard their positions or reputations with rhetorical smokescreens rather than honest dialogue, relational breakdown is inevitable.

Job's Friends

Practice Discernment



Presuppositional Thinking

Faulty presuppositions damage relationships and cloud theological truth

Suffering is always the result of sin

They assume a direct correlation between personal sin and suffering, leaving no room for mystery or divine testing.

“Consider now: Who being innocent has ever perished?” – Eliphaz (Job 4:7)

God’s justice is immediate and visible

They believe God always rewards or punishes visibly and swiftly.

“Surely God does not reject one who is blameless...” – Bildad (Job 8:20)

Human wisdom can fully explain divine action

Each friend speaks confidently, assuming they understand God’s ways through tradition or reason.

“Are God’s consolations not enough for you...?” – Eliphaz (Job 15:11)

Theological Insight: These assumptions demonstrate how sincere but shallow theology can lead to misjudgment and further pain. The story of Job reminds us to approach others with humility, listen well, and trust God’s sovereignty even when His purposes are hidden. We must practice both discernment and caution to avoid becoming delegated accusers like Job’s friends.