

# KING OF KINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH



**John 18:37**

*You Are Not Crazy if You Believe ... that Truth Exists*

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**Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”**

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Somewhere along the line, logic has been tossed out the window in America. If I asked you to name the main color of the stole that I am wearing, there wouldn't be much room for debate. It is green. If you said, “You wore a red one a few weeks ago, so your stole is red,” we would have to tell you that the past doesn't make this one green. If you were to say that you think it is purple, we would have to tell you that it isn't. There is a right answer to the question of what color it is and logically, other answers are wrong.

But somehow we have reached a point where in spiritual and moral matters, Americans aren't sure if there are right and wrong answers. So, I say that I believe in the Triune God as revealed in the Bible. The Second Person of the Trinity became flesh, died on a cross for my sins, rose from the dead, and now lives and rules in heaven. Another person may say that they believe in a god named Allah. Their god's path to salvation is praying toward a city in Saudi Arabia, fasting during a certain month, giving alms to the poor, and maybe even some violence. Another person will claim that don't believe in any god. And still another person will claim that their god is a tree.

Or in moral matters, one person says that homosexuality is a sinful behavior. Another says that God doesn't care at all. One person says that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Another person says that there is nothing wrong with sex before marriage, as long as both people agree. Right and wrong are debated in our society. Sometime people suggest that there isn't a right or wrong; it always depends on the situation.

If God changes to fit the imagination of each person, then he's just a figment of our imagination. If right and wrong are flexible, then

they don't actually exist. It is difficult to navigate a world that is so adjustable.

But what makes this even more complicated for us is that many in our society reject those who believe there are right and wrong answers to these and other issues. They think we are crazy for believing right and wrong exist or that God has revealed exactly who he is.

For the next few weeks we will consider that you are not crazy if you believe what the Bible says. Our society may think you are; but they aren't the ones who determine our sanity. Today, I'd like you to be assured that truth exists.

Jesus spoke the words of our text to Pilate when he was on trial. Pilate's response to Jesus' words shows us that American thinking isn't anything new. **“What is truth?”** Pilate said to dismiss Jesus claims about truth.

Here's the problem with unchanging, real truth: It means there is right and wrong. It is easy to see clearly that some things are right and wrong when we are talking about something that I'm not tempted to do. But when right and wrong get personal and apply to me, that's another story. Don't believe me? What happens when someone comes to you and tells you that you did something wrong or that you offended them? Don't we often mount a full-scale defense? *The situation was difficult or I was under a lot of stress. You're too sensitive; it isn't my fault.*

Why so defensive? Because the alternative would be to admit: “I was wrong.” Ouch! It stings to admit it, doesn't it?

Humanity has the same problem I have. I hate to admit I'm wrong; so does everyone else. One of

the easiest ways that humanity was created to avoid admitting guilt is to change the rules. If it isn't wrong, we have nothing to fear.

**“Everyone on the side of truth listens to me,”** Jesus said. Following Jesus means we are willing to confront and admit the truth. That is, first of all, personal. The truth is, I have sinned. My careless silence and my seething anger are sins. The lies I tell to cover up my failures are sins. The excuses I make so I don't have to help others or participate in activities that are slightly out of my comfort zone are often sins. The raging selfishness that allows me to scoff at the fools who disagree with me is a sinful attitude. The immoral TV shows or movies I watch, but makes excuses for watching, are sins.

So are the sins that others in our society commit. But for a moment, be brave enough to recognize the truth about yourself.

Our culture tries to excuse right and wrong as a self-defense trick. They may not be wise enough to know they are only fooling themselves; but you are!

You are not crazy if you believe the truth about sin — even sin in you. Recognizing reality is actually a good thing. When we don't hide from the truth, we find the greatest truth of all. God has taken away your sins! Jesus' life was dedicated to saving you by removing your sins. His death on the cross was a payment for the sins of the world.

Let's make sure the record is straight: the true God became one of us and died to take away our sins. As offensive as that is to human logic that God died for us; it is the truth. It was the only way. Through faith in him, he freely gives forgiveness of sins away. Through faith in Jesus the door to eternal life is opened!

Those who try to change God into someone else, someone he isn't, may be well-intentioned, but they are wrong. Sadly, redefining God only leaves people lost in spiritual darkness. Yes,

their false god may approve of their sins. The religions people have created are also appealing because they tell people that we can save ourselves. But that doesn't make it true anymore than you arguing that my stole is blue makes it blue.

As Jesus stood before Pilate, he told the governor that truth existed. Pilate scoffed, but his lack of insight didn't change the truth of who Jesus was or what he was going to accomplish by his crucifixion.

Like Pilate scoffed at Jesus, the world scoffs at us. They accept the illogical — that one person can believe in the God of the Bible, another can believe the God of the Bible does not exist, and still another can believe that there is no such thing as a god. And everyone is right?! They don't want to hear that right and wrong are real because they would mean that sin and guilt are real. And without Jesus, guilt doesn't go away.

Jesus said, **“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first”** (John 15:18). The world thinks you are the problem because you believe in right and wrong and accept the truth that Jesus is your Savior — which means you admit that you've sinned and need a Savior. Jesus tells us that the world doesn't have a problem with you; the world has a problem with Jesus. They may not know it, but their issue is not with you.

You are not crazy if you believe that sins are sins and that there is only one true God. It can be a burden to bear — a cross — as we live in a world that doesn't see the truth. But don't be misled. God is on your side. The day will come when you are proved right. Until then, hold to the truth, even when it means confessing sins. Hold to the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ has saved you. Amen.

Pentecost 2  
June 7, 2015

