

technicians we can trust? Why do we hate hearing lies from politicians? Why do we want our doctors to tell us the truth about our health, or our pharmacists to be truthful about the side effects of our medications? Why do we expect the bank to tell us the truth about our money? Why do we want our family and friends to be truthful with us? It's because knowing what is true and what is false impacts every area of our lives!

Unfortunately, while people say they want to know the truth about their health and money, they often deny or suppress the truth about morality and religion—issues that call them to change their behavior. Augustine said, “We love the truth when it enlightens us, but we hate it when it convicts us.” The apostle Paul makes this point in Romans 1:18–32, especially when he writes “men suppress the truth by their wickedness.” In other words, people suppress the truth so that they can feel free to do what they want.

So while people are truth seekers, we are often also truth suppressors as well. Are you a truth seeker or a truth suppressor? Do you *really* want to know the truth? Can you handle it?

1. Can you think of any areas in your life where you aren't as careful as you should be about discovering the truth? Explain.

2. Why is it dangerous to live your life based on half-truths or unverified assumptions?

SO WHAT?

Finding the answers to the biggest questions in life depends on knowing the truth: *Where did we come from? How did this universe and everything in it get here? What happens when our lives on earth are over?* If you have wrong ideas about truth, then you have wrong ideas about life too. If you live your life based on faulty ideas or assumptions, then you can seriously hurt yourself and others. That's because there really are moral standards and laws in the universe which, if broken, have harmful or even fatal consequences. Such truths are absolute—that is, unchanging throughout history—and knowable. These moral standards are not dependent on our opinions, feelings, or preferences.

So knowing the truth is important to us. However, some people are quick to say there is no real truth when it comes to areas of life such as morals or religion. We do this at our own peril.