

2016: The Word of the Year

Oxford Dictionary has named 'post-truth' its 2016 word of the year. Simply put, 'post-truth' means our culture is forming its values on what it feels to be true rather than what is factually true. It's not that facts or even absolute truths are denied, they have simply become irrelevant in shaping public opinion. People are determining what is true for them based on what they feel is right (and wrong), even if facts and truths say otherwise.

In Biblical terms, this desire to let our feelings dominate our values is defined as doing what is right in 'our own eyes.' The Bible sets up a strict contrast between us doing what is right in God's eyes vs. us doing what is right in our own eyes. Consider the following verses:

"If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you." – I Kings 11:38

"I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. None of them repent of their wickedness, saying, "What have I done?" Each pursues their own course like a horse charging into battle." – Jeremiah 8:6

"A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart." – Proverbs 21:3

"Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness." – Romans 10:3

P2R (Point 2 Remember):

Post truth is the epitome of doing what is right in our own eyes. It is spiritual narcissism and as such, it is an anathema to God.

Q2P (Question 2 Ponder):

What does it mean for YOU to live and lead in ways that are right in God's eyes, and what will it look like to pursue these ways without compromise?