

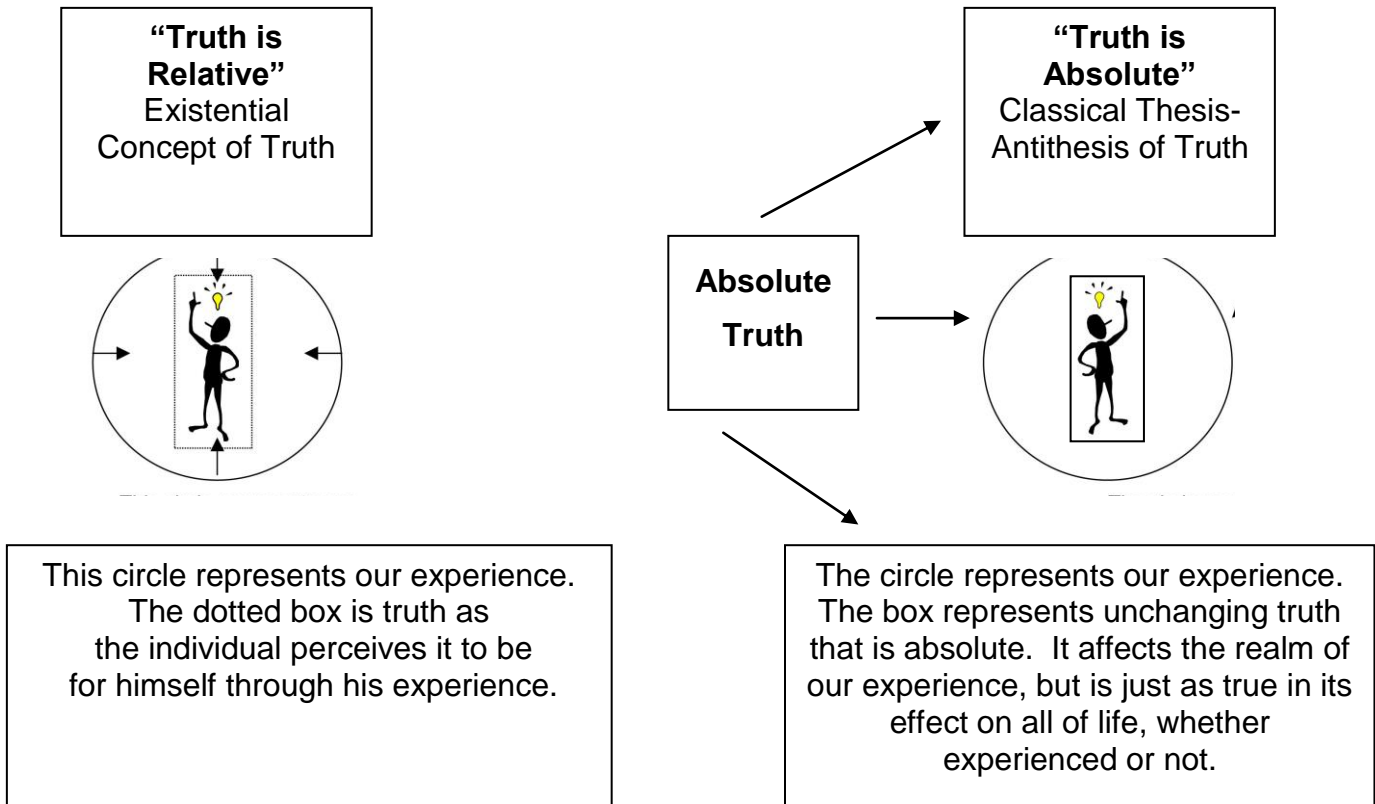
Introduction: We've got a problem!

- The Symptom: Moral _____
- The Issues: Ethics and _____
- The Dilemma: Who determines what's _____ or wrong?
- The Question: What is _____ ?

Understanding the real problem:

- **Diagnosis** - Our view of **truth** has dramatically shifted in the last 50-60 years.
 - ✓ **Among Intellectuals** - Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
 - ✓ **In Education** - The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom
 - ✓ **In Law & Science** - Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education by Phillip E. Johnson
 - ✓ **In Culture** - Escape from Reason and The God Who Is There by Francis A. Schaeffer

Summarizing the two models of truth:

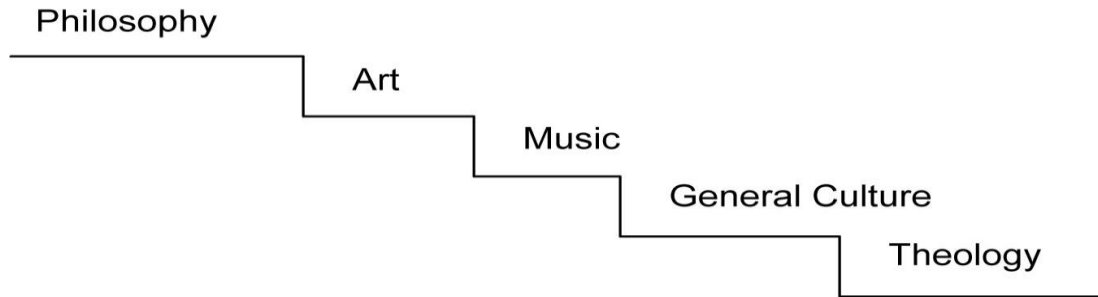


What happened?

- Historical analysis

- Philosophical analysis

How did it happen?



How is the “relative truth –vs– absolute truth” conflict played out daily?

• **Public Rhetoric =** “All are right”
Pluralism
Tolerance } **Truth is Relative**

• **Private Reactions =** “My rights”
Justice
Fairness } **Truth is Absolute**

• **Painful Results =** Sowing and Reaping

“⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

Galatians 6:7-8 (GNB)

What did Jesus say about truth?

- **Jesus' outrageous claims ...**

1. ... about Himself John 14:6
2. ... about His Word John 17:17

- **Jesus' outrageous concern ...**

1. ... about you John 4:23
2. ... about your welfare John 8:32

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between "relative truth" and absolute truth?
2. How did this "shift" of truth come about?
3. Why is it so important that we think clearly about what is true?
4. Discuss what aspect of Jesus' words about truth most encouraged you.