

Saving Truth Study Questions

Ch. 1

1. There are two modes of post-truth mentioned in the book. Review the two types below. Can you think of specific examples where you have seen this in the culture?
 1. Soft mode: Truth exists, but we don't care
 2. Hard mode: Truth exists, but I'm willingly going to lie to serve a higher agenda
2. According to the author, what are some differences between "post-modern" and "post-truth?" Which system of thought do you think best describes our situation today? Why?
3. Read the author's story of his conversation to Christianity on pages 22-23. Describe why coming to faith in Christ was difficult for him.
4. Do you think the author represents a large group of people when he says: "The truth wasn't hard to find, it was hard to embrace." (22)
5. What are the primary tools that teens today use to gather information? What are some benefits and drawbacks of the tools you use?

Ch. 2

1. On pages 28-29, Murray shares a story about Fake News that went viral. Do you think this is something that Christians need to be concerned about? Can you think of any situations where something untrue was shared and was harmful to someone?
2. What are the two ways the church has given in to post truth (p 31)?
3. Pick one of the ways in question 2 and write a paragraph (5-7 sentences) describing how you have seen this at work and the dangers this type of thinking presents.
4. In your own words, summarize the message of the section "A Wise Temperament: Cooling the Smoldering Anger." (5-7 sentences)
5. Find at least 5 Proverbs that speak to how Christians should communicate with each other. List them below with a one sentence explanation of each one. (Note: you will need to look at the book of proverbs for yourself! I'd recommend starting at chapter 10).

Ch. 3

1. What is the difference between freedom and autonomy, according to the author?
2. Do you see evidences that people are wanting autonomy rather than freedom? Explain your answer.
3. List the 4 "Sacrifices" discussed in the chapter.
4. Pick one from the list in question #3 and write a half page reflection on how you see this issue at work in the culture and provide insights from a Christian worldview on how to address the problem.

Ch. 4

1. Write 2-3 sentences on what the author means by "negative and positive" freedom.

2. Do you think this quote from David Foster Wallace is accurate? “‘There is actually no such thing as atheism’...and all of us, regardless of our religious or non religious bents, worship something.” (75) Explain what is meant by this quote.
3. Read Galatians 5:13-15. What do these verses tell us about Christians and freedom?
4. Can you think of an example when you have or should limit your freedom for the sake of others?
5. The author makes the case that freedom in society rest on the foundation of a creator (God). Do you agree with this assertion? Why or why not? (4-6 sentences)

Ch. 5

1. Consider this quote: “we can explain the human mind the same way we explain every physical phenomenon, from radioactivity to photosynthesis. Our consciousness is explained not by an immaterial soul but by our neurons and brain chemistry. We are, quite literally, our brains. We have no immaterial soul. There is nothing more to us than chemistry and physics. Thus, there is no objective purpose to humanity” (p. 99) If one believes this, what are the implications for the following areas: 1. human dignity, 2. freedom of the will, and 3. meaning/purpose. Write 2-3 sentences for each category.
2. On pages 106 Murray summarizes an interview on abortion with Liz Harmon. Watch the actual interview (5 mins) and then summarize Harmon’s view of the “fetus and moral status.” Do you agree or disagree with her? Why? (4-6 sentences) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5SQnQjryzI>
3. What are some ways you can work to affirm human dignity?

Ch 8

1. Look at the section on pages 189-191 titled Tolerant for You but Not for Me. According to the author, what has changed in our discussions of religion?
2. Review the quote on page 199 on why Aslan from the chapter, says he is a Muslim. Critique his argument. Do you agree or disagree with his approach? (I’m not asking if you think he is right, I’m asking if you think it’s a good approach to the argument).
3. The author says, “Tolerance only operates among differences, not sameness. No one has to tolerate ideas similar to their own” (p. 197). How does this differ from many contemporary ideas about “tolerance?” (4-6 sentences)
4. Read John 14:1-7. Do you believe Jesus is the exclusive truth? Why or why not?