

# Truth

‘Although everyone is a liar, let God be proved true.’  
(Romans 3:4).

‘They refused to love the truth and so be saved’  
(2Thessalonians 2:10).

‘Salvation through sanctification by the Spirit  
and through belief in the truth’(2Thessalonians 2:13).

‘Love rejoices in the truth’(1Corinthians 13:6).

# Truth

‘Doing/speaking the truth in love’(Ephesians 4:15).

‘The church of the living God, the column and pedestal of the truth.’(1Timothy 3:15)

**TRUTH**



**TROTH / TRUST**

**= Something I can RELY ON**

**Greek - A-LETHEIA**

Lethe = the mythical river  
of forgetfulness in Hades

|  
**NOT**

|  
**FORGOTTEN**

**[not beneath deceptive appearances]**

**[what seems to be = what is in reality]**

Truth: Our judgment is in accordance with what actually is not just what seems to be, but what is

The ultimately reality is God. Everything is an expression of God

So truth is always an aspect of God

In John's Gospel the truth = the revelation of who God really is

‘The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of the gift of truth’(John 1:14).

‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life’(John 14:6).

‘You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’(John 8:32).

‘When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.’(John 16:13)

# Newman

## An essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine

‘Some claim that truth and falsehood in religion are but matter of opinion; that one doctrine is as good as another; that the Governor of the world does not intend that we should gain the truth; that there is no truth; that we are not more acceptable to God by believing this than by believing that; that no one is answerable for his opinions; that it is enough if we sincerely hold what we profess; that we may take up and lay down opinions at pleasure; that we may safely trust to ourselves in matters of faith and need no other guide.’

# Newman

## An essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine

‘There is a truth; there is one truth; religious error is of itself of an immoral nature; those who maintain it, unless they do so involuntarily, are guilty in maintaining it; religious error is to be dreaded; the search for truth is not the gratification of curiosity; the mind is below truth, not above it, and is bound, not to descant upon it, but to venerate it; truth and falsehood are set before us for the trial of our hearts.’

## Newman, Rome 1879 on being made a cardinal

‘Liberalism in religion is the doctrine that there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another, and this is the teaching which is gaining substance and force daily. It is inconsistent with the recognition of any religion, as true. It teaches that all are to be tolerated, for all are matters of opinion. Revealed religion is not a truth, but a sentiment and a taste; not an objective fact, not miraculous; and it is the right of each individual to make it say just what strikes his fancy.’



## Truth must not be imposed

‘Truth can impose itself on the human mind only in virtue of its own truth, which wins over the mind with both gentleness and power.’

(Vat II Declaration on Religious Freedom n.1)

## We must seek the truth

‘We are impelled by our nature to seek the truth, to adhere to it once discovered, and to direct our whole lives in accordance with its demands’(Vat II Declaration on Religious Freedom n.2).

# Angela Merici

‘Happy are those whom God fills with the light of truth and gives a keen longing for their heavenly home and who then try to keep alive within them the voice of truth and this longing’(Prologue to Ursuline rule).

## Therese of Lisieux

‘If I'm not loved, that's just too bad! I tell the whole truth, and if anyone does not want to know the truth, let her not come looking for me.’

‘O my God, I really want to listen to you; I beg you to answer me when I say humbly, What is truth? Make me see things as they really are. Let nothing cause me to be deceived.’

‘It seems to me that I never sought anything but the truth ... I am not sorry for handing myself over to love ... Oh, I love Him! My God, I love you.’(her last words 30.9.97 followed by an ecstasy for the length of a Credo, and her last breath)

W.B. Yeats (1910, aged 45)

‘Though leaves are many, the root is one.  
Through all the lying days of my youth  
I swayed my leaves and flowers in the sun.  
Now I may wither into the truth.’

# Sins against the truth

False witness. If under oath = perjury

Rash judgment

Detraction

Calumny

Flattery

Adulation

Boasting

## Sins against the truth

Lying. 'To lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead into error someone who has the right to know the truth.'(Catechism n. 2483)

There is a duty to try to put right the harm that has been done.

'No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it'(Catechism n. 2489).

‘Professional secrets – for example, those of political office holders, soldiers, physicians and lawyers – or confidential information given under the seal of secrecy must be kept, save in exceptional cases where keeping the secret is bound to cause very great harm to the one who confided it, to the one who received it, or to a third party, and where the very grave harm can be avoided only by divulging the truth. Even if not confided under the seal of secrecy, private information prejudicial to another is not to be divulged without a grave and proportionate reason’(Catechism n. 2491).

‘Interference by the media in the private lives of persons engaged in political or public activity is to be condemned to the extent that it infringes upon their privacy and freedom’(Catechism n. 2492).

‘Nothing can justify recourse to disinformation for manipulating public opinion through the media.’  
(Catechism n. 2498).