

Teaching Principles and Opinions, Part Three **by Anthony Higginson**

Introduction

The dictionary describes the word opinion as

1. Judgement or belief not founded on certainty or proof
2. A point open to question
3. The prevailing or popular feeling or view or public opinion
4. A point open to question

The anatomy of truth says

1. It's the quality of being true, genuine, actual, or factual
2. Something that is proven or verified such as a principle or statement
3. Something that is obvious, fact, truism, platitude
4. Something that is honest and reliable

Numbers 23-19 God is not a man that he should lie nor a son of man that he should change his mind.

God never speaks from opinions; He speaks from truth which is unchanging but is progressive to those who seek it out.

Titus 1: 1-3 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of Gods elect and the knowledge of truth that leads to godliness. A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour

If I said words to you such as

Hebrews 6: 18-20 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain where Jesus who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become our high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

If I said

1. All truth
2. Widely accepted truth

3. Historic truth
4. Progressive Truth
5. Present now revealed truth
6. Prophetic truth

All these truths have invited many, many scholars, theologians, popes, pastors, lay people and the likes to form opinions of what the truth of God really is. It was from their interpretations and opinions that early church fathers such as John Wycliffe, John Huss, Martin Luther and others were treated as martyrs as they stood up for their revealed truth. Truth is what helps us build a framework, a foundation if you will, in which to build, stand and flourish. Each and every one of us lives everyday in stone structures which are built on firm foundations known as your home. Think of the peace, security and pleasure this structure gives to you and those living with you, so much so, that if those foundations were to be built ignoring architectural truths, then imagine, it only takes a certain amount of shaking or vibration to make that which is built become vulnerable. Foundations of our belief are fundamental to what we believe as it is this framework which will stop us going into error and disaster.

Romans 15:20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. **Meaning building on other people's opinions, traditions or perceptions.**

1Corinthians 3:10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. **How you build will determine the direction you take and the consequences that come to you**

1Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. **So your opinion on how church should be built is not needed; just follow the pattern laid out by the apostles**

So many people think and suggest how the church is to be built and what the role of the pastor is but they do not understand the foundation which has already been laid, hence why, they air their opinion.

Ephesians 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1Timothy 3:15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1. From acts that lead to death and of faith in God
2. Instruction of Baptism

3. Laying on of hands
4. The resurrection of the dead & eternal judgment

Do you know why it is so hard to get a backslider back into the purposes of God? Because they have formed opinions contrary to the word such as

1. God wouldn't have me back I've sinned too much
2. How could God love a sinner like me? I have angered him forever
3. Or Jonathan Edwards, the British Olympic Gold Long jump and sand pit jumper, who publically testified on many a stage of his testimony yet just recently has denounced his faith in Christ saying he was deceived. Guess who has formulated opinions now???

So what am I allowed to have an opinion on?

Remember what the dictionary definition of an opinion was

1. Judgement or belief not founded on certainty or proof
2. A point open to question

Discussable and debateable opinions

1. An opinion on Eschatology whether that be pre, post or A-millennium view as one stance is not yet been proved.
2. Calvinism or Armenianism. Can a person lose their salvation or are they once saved or always saved?
3. How Jesus and His disciples worked miracles. Feeding of the 3,000 and 5,000, for instance.
4. Was the earth created in six literal days or was it created and left void until God spoke to it?
5. Evangelism, worship, prayer and so on are all discussable topics.