

# Truth Becomes Motive

Series: Motives Matter

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We have seen that:

- God's motives and man's are radically different mostly
- That motives can be layered and complicated
- That motives have to be tested by the word of God

Today I want to offer what I believe is the divine process for creating pure motives within our lives. Truth claims create pure godly motives. If you want to be clear about why you do what you do, then it is important to know what you hold to be true. Let me illustrate before I get into specific passages on this.

I am motivated not to tell a lie. Why?

Because lying is a sin. Why does that matter?

Because sin is a violation of God's will. So what?

Because when His will is violated, then because of His justice He must hold me accountable. Why is that so bad?

Because the penalty for sin is death, total separation from God eternally. Why is that so bad? Because there is no higher aim for man than to have an eternal relationship with God-called eternal life.

Notice how the motivation not to tell a lie is strengthened by all the supporting truths.

Slide 4 It is like weaving a rope. Each strand of truth causes the rope to become stronger and stronger.

A few years ago I was studying 1 John when I noticed the word "Hoti" in the Greek.

These "hoti" statements are normally translated "that" or "because." I found no fewer than 54 "hoti" statements in 1 John. We will look at a few of them to make the point that truth claims create pure godly motives.

Here are some examples in the NASB which is more literal, The NIV does not include the word "that" though it is in the Greek.

## **1 John 1:5-7:**

1 John 1: 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, **that** God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say **that** we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- The action of our walking in the light is predicated on two truths:
  - God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
  - We have fellowship with Him.
- So these become my motivation for walking in the light and results in:
  - Fellowship with others
  - The cleansing of sins

## 1 John 2:12-14

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, **because** your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, **because** you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, **because** you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, **because** you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, **because** you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, **because** you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- John states his motivation for writing to each one of these categories of Christians: Little children, young men, and fathers by using six “hoti” statements.
- There are six truths that motivate John:
  - Your sins have been forgiven you for His name sake
  - You know Him who is from the beginning
  - You have overcome the evil one
  - You know the Father
  - You are strong
  - The word of God abides in you

## 1 John 3:5

5 You know **that** He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

- The truth is that Jesus appeared to take away sins
- Because this is true then it follows that in Him we can live without the guilt of sin.

BUT, there are also some examples of those who hold to a falsehood but treat it as truth.

## 1 John 1:8, 10

8 If we say **that** we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say **that** we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

- It is a lie to say we have no sin
- It is a lie to say we have not sinned

- Why would I ever repent of my sins and seek salvation in Christ if I have never sinned? I would have no motivation.

## 1 John 2:22

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies **that** Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

- It is a lie to say that Jesus is not the Christ
- The actions of the anti-christ follow this belief.

As you can see the truths we believe inform our motives.

Let's end with one more statement from 1 John 2:21 I have not written to you **because** you do not know the truth, but **because** you do know it, and **because** no \* lie is of the truth.

The person who is firmly grounded in the truths of God is a person who will have the purest of motives in every area of their lives. You will do everything you do because of the thousands of truths that are found in the Bible.