



*From a Judeo-Christian perspective, where can a person find the ultimate source of truth?*

*Jesus says of himself in John 14:6 that He is the “way, the truth, and the life”. He says of those who know him, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:31).” Jesus goes on further in John 17 to say God’s Word is truth, referring to the Scriptures.*

*The truth of the Bible comes alive (Hebrews 4:12) as we, by faith, surrender (often using our second thought) to God’s Word and His way.*

*Different understandings and practices of Biblical truth can create barriers one to another. The illustration to the right depicts different levels of understanding about truths found in Scripture.*

*At the top, we consider truth from Scripture that seems clear and non-negotiable. For example, most would agree that you should not steal (Exodus 20:15).*

*The middle tier raises awareness of the need to find truth as one applies Scripture to a given situation. For example, there are many passages that speak about prayer. When in a social setting, one may apply Scripture by praying publicly (Mark 8:6-7) or choosing to refrain from public prayer (Matt 6:6).*



*The last tier refers to grey areas in life that do not seem to be addressed by Scripture (i.e. should I wear blue or green, fix eggs or eat cereal). The bottom tier points out that many things in life do not have any bearing on truth or an exact right or wrong.*

*When relational conflict forms over differing beliefs, invitational living is achieved by continuing to value the other and the relationship over “being right.” Living invitationally does not mean compromising beliefs; however, it does mean restraining judgment and using a second thought to continue seeking to understand, sharing openly and honestly, caring and receiving care.*

*Consider the Scripture below and its importance when differing beliefs about a truth cause tension.*

*“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”*  
*-1 Peter 3:15*

*What is the takeaway from this verse when there is a difference of opinion about beliefs?*