Introduction: We’ve got a problem!

- The Symptom: Moral __________________________
- The Issues: Ethics and __________________________
- The Dilemma: Who determines what’s __________________________ or wrong?
- The Question: What is __________________________?

Understanding the real problem:

- Diagnosis - Our view of truth has dramatically shifted in the last 50-60 years.

  ✓ Among Intellectuals - Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

  ✓ In Education - The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom

  ✓ In Law & Science - Reason in the Balance: The Case Against Naturalism in Science, Law, and Education by Phillip E. Johnson

  ✓ In Culture - Escape from Reason and The God Who Is There by Francis A. Schaeffer
Summarizing the two models of truth:

“Truth is Relative”
Existential Concept of Truth

“Truth is Absolute”
Classical Thesis-Antithesis of Truth

This circle represents our experience. The dotted box is truth as the individual perceives it to be for himself through his experience.

The circle represents our experience. The box represents unchanging truth that is absolute. It affects the realm of our experience, but is just as true in its effect on all of life, whether experienced or not.

What happened?

• Historical analysis

• Philosophical analysis
How did it happen?

- Public Rhetoric = “All are right”
  - Pluralism
  - Tolerance
  - Truth is Relative

- Private Reactions = “My rights”
  - Justice
  - Fairness
  - Truth is Absolute

- Painful Results = Sowing and Reaping

  “7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”

  Galatians 6:7-8 (GNB)
What did Jesus say about truth?

- Jesus’ outrageous claims …
  1. … about Himself
  2. … about His Word

- Jesus’ outrageous concern …
  1. … about you
  2. … about your welfare

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between “relative truth” and absolute truth?
2. How did this “shift” of truth come about?
3. Why is it so important that we think clearly about what is true?
4. Discuss what aspect of Jesus’ words about truth most encouraged you.