

FATHERS OF TRUTH

ABBREVIATED SERMON OUTLINE

3 John 1:4

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

INTRODUCTION

The Measure of a Man

Central Truth:

A man is not measured by success, status, or strength, but by truth.

I. THE PRIORITY OF TRUTH – “*Walk in truth*”

A. Truth Must Be Learned

B. Truth Must Be Loved

C. Truth Must Be Lived

II. THE PATTERN OF TRUTH – “*My children*”

A. Truth Requires Character

B. Truth Requires Consistency

C. Truth Requires Courage

III. THE PLEASURE OF TRUTH – “*I have no greater joy*”

A. The Joy of Changed Lives

B. The Joy of Leaving a Legacy

C. The Joy of Hearing “Well Done”

CONCLUSION

What Kind of Man Will You Be?

FINAL DECLARATION

They Walked in Truth

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EXPANDED SERMON OUTLINE

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INTRODUCTION

The Measure of a Man

Central Truth:

A man is not measured by success, status, or strength, but by truth.

I. THE PRIORITY OF TRUTH – *“Walk in truth”*

A. Truth Must Be Learned

- Formed by the Word
- Established by Scripture
- Grounded in biblical conviction

B. Truth Must Be Loved

- Received in the heart
- Valued above culture
- Desired above convenience

C. Truth Must Be Lived

- Demonstrated in daily conduct
- Proven by consistent obedience
- Validated by authentic lifestyle

II. THE PATTERN OF TRUTH – *“My children”*

A. Truth Requires Character

- Modeled before others
- Demonstrated through integrity
- Seen in daily life

B. Truth Requires Consistency

- Walked out continually
- Practiced faithfully
- Maintained privately and publicly

C. Truth Requires Courage

- Defended under pressure
- Maintained amid compromise
- Stood upon in every generation

III. THE PLEASURE OF TRUTH – “*I have no greater joy*”

A. The Joy of Changed Lives

- Seeing faith reproduced
- Witnessing spiritual growth
- Watching truth take root

B. The Joy of Leaving a Legacy

- Depositing truth into others
- Building eternal influence
- Leaving spiritual inheritance

C. The Joy of Hearing “Well Done”

- Living for divine approval
- Standing before the Father
- Receiving eternal commendation

CONCLUSION

What Kind of Man Will You Be?

The Call:

- Walk in truth
- Lead in truth
- Stand in truth
- Leave truth as your legacy

ALTAR APPEAL

A Call Back To:

- Integrity
- Conviction
- Prayer
- Holiness
- Truth

FINAL DECLARATION

They Walked in Truth

FATHER'S DAY MANUSCRIPT

Fathers of Truth

Text: 3 John 1:4

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

INTRODUCTION

The Measure of a Man

On Father's Day, men are often measured by success, strength, salary, status, and skill.

But heaven measures a man differently.

A man is not defined by his paycheck, his title, his possessions, or the applause of culture.

A man is measured by truth.

John, the aged apostle, writes with the heart of a spiritual father. Having preached, prayed, suffered, and disciplined, he reveals what brought him his greatest joy—not crowds, influence, or possessions:

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

To **walk in truth** means to live it, obey it, and remain faithful to it.

This is not occasional belief.

It is daily obedience.

Truth is not merely something heard.

It becomes something lived.

And if there has ever been a time when our homes, churches, and nation need men of truth, it is now.

Not perfect men.

Not polished men.

Not platform men.

But truthful men.

Men whose words can be trusted, whose convictions are biblical, whose hearts are surrendered, and whose lives point others to Jesus Christ.

If truth produces heaven's greatest joy, then truth must become life's highest priority.

I. THE PRIORITY OF TRUTH

“Walk in truth”

Truth is foundational to every part of life.

A house without a foundation collapses.

A compass without true north misleads.

A life without truth self-destructs.

Culture says:

- “Live your truth.”
- “Truth is relative.”
- “Truth changes.”

But Jesus declared:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

John 14:6

Truth is not a trend.

Truth is not an opinion.

Truth is a Person—Jesus Christ.

A real man does not bend truth to fit culture.

He bows to truth to honor Christ.

A. Truth Must Be Learned

Men are not naturally shaped by truth.

We must be taught.

“The entirety of Your word is truth.”

Psalms 119:160

A man who neglects God's Word will drift spiritually and morally.

A man of truth builds on Scripture.

Illustration:

Before construction begins, surveyors establish benchmarks. Every measurement must align with that fixed point.

God's Word is the benchmark for a man's life.

B. Truth Must Be Loved

Truth cannot merely inform the mind.

It must capture the heart.

Paul warned that many perish because they "received not the love of the truth."

A man of truth loves righteousness and pursues obedience.

C. Truth Must Be Lived

John rejoiced not because they discussed truth, but because they walked in it.

Anyone can quote Scripture.

Anyone can say "Amen."

But truth is proven by your walk.

Your family is watching.

Does your lifestyle validate your testimony?

Your children can survive your mistakes.

It is hypocrisy they struggle to survive.

If truth is our priority, then it must also become our pattern.

II. THE PATTERN OF TRUTH

"My children"

John speaks as a spiritual father.

Truth is not merely taught publicly; it is transmitted relationally.

Children learn what we celebrate, tolerate, prioritize, and practice.

Every man is influencing someone.

A. Truth Requires Character

Children imitate before they understand.

“Follow me, as I follow Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1

Private integrity produces public credibility.

Your greatest sermon may never be preached from a pulpit.

It may be preached:

- At the dinner table
- In the workplace
- During conflict
- In how you repent
- In how you treat your family

Illustration:

A little boy walked behind his father through fresh snow, stepping directly into his footprints.

He smiled and said:

“I’m walking where my daddy walked.”

Men, someone is walking in your footprints.

B. Truth Requires Consistency

Walking implies continuation.

It is steady, daily, intentional faithfulness.

Men of truth are not Sunday-only believers.

They are everyday disciples.

“The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.”

Proverbs 20:7

Integrity in the father becomes blessing for the children.

C. Truth Requires Courage

Truth has always been costly.

- Daniel faced Babylon.
- Joseph faced temptation.

- Elijah faced Ahab.
- John faced Herod.
- Paul faced Rome.

Today men face confusion, compromise, passivity, distraction, and spiritual drift.

It takes courage to stand when culture bows.

The world does not need more bravado.

It needs biblical backbone.

When truth becomes our pattern, it produces heaven's deepest pleasure.

III. THE PLEASURE OF TRUTH

"I have no greater joy."

John reveals the joy truth produces.

There is joy in salvation, worship, revival, and ministry.

But nothing compares to seeing those you influence walk faithfully with God.

This is the joy of legacy.

A. The Joy of Changed Lives

Nothing compares to seeing children love Jesus, grandchildren walk faithfully, and disciples remain steadfast.

- Possessions fade.
- Careers end.
- Bodies weaken.

But transformed lives endure.

B. The Joy of Leaving a Legacy

Legacy is not what you leave **to** people.

Legacy is what you leave **in** people.

Some fathers leave money.

A godly father leaves truth.

If you leave truth, you leave something eternal.

A man of truth leaves fingerprints on eternity.

C. The Joy of Hearing “Well Done”

This points beyond earthly fatherhood to our Heavenly Father.

One day every man will stand before God.

- Not before culture.
- Not before public opinion.
- Not before applause.

Before God.

**The greatest joy will not be earthly recognition—but heavenly approval:
“Well done, good and faithful servant.” Matthew 25:21**

CONCLUSION

What Kind of Man Will You Be?

Our culture celebrates loud men, successful men, and powerful men.

But heaven celebrates truthful men.

- Men who walk with God.
- Men who repent quickly.
- Men who lead humbly.
- Men who stand courageously.
- Men who live biblically.

A man of truth is not sinless but surrendered.

Not flawless, but faithful.

Not perfect but pursuing Christ.

So, on this Father’s Day, the question is not:

How successful are you?

How admired are you?

How accomplished are you?

The question is:

Are you walking in truth?

- Your wife needs truth.
- Your children need truth.
- Your church needs truth.
- Your generation needs truth.

Truth is not merely something you speak.

It is something you walk.

ALTAR APPEAL

Today, God is calling men:

- Back to integrity.
- Back to conviction.
- Back to prayer.
- Back to holiness.
- Back to truth.

Some need repentance.

Some need renewal.

Some need revival.

Some fathers need to pray: **“Lord, make me the man my family needs.”**

Some sons need to pray: **“Lord, teach me to walk in truth.”**

Some grandfathers need to pray: **“Let my legacy be faithfulness.”**

Heaven is not looking for perfect men. Heaven is looking for truthful men.

So today, let us rise and answer heaven’s call.

Let fathers stand.

Let sons respond.

Let families be strengthened.

And let it be said of us:

They Walked in Truth

Prepared by W. A. Mills
IPHC Men’s Ministries Director