

The Lengths Those Opposing The Truth Will Go To

I. Introduction:

A. Why would someone basically hate hearing the truth (**Proverbs 1:20-31**) and those that teach it (**I Kings 22:8**)?

1. The study of human behavior refers to this as “Cognitive Dissonance” which is: “The mental conflict that occurs when beliefs or assumptions are contradicted by new information. The unease or tension that the conflict arouses in people is relieved by one of several defensive maneuvers: they reject, explain away, or avoid the new information; persuade themselves that no conflict really exists; reconcile the differences; or resort to any other defensive means of preserving stability or order in their conceptions of the world and of themselves” (Encyclopedia Britannica; <https://www.britannica.com/science/conflict-psychology>).

2. The unease is there when the truth cuts to the heart (**Acts 7:51-54**).

B. Teaching the truth makes one vulnerable to attack (**Luke 10:1-3**).

1. Think about what Jeremiah said to those professing to be God’s people (**Jeremiah 26:12-15**).

2. Paul suffered trouble because he preached Christ (**II Timothy 2:8-10**).

3. They hate the messenger (**Proverbs 9:6-8**).

II. Body: Consider How Far People Will Go To Reject The Truth (**Isaiah 30:8-13**).

A. In a state of denial (**Jeremiah 5:11-14**).

1. Trying to get rid of those that preach truth (**Amos 7:10-17**).

2. Talking about and slandering those that teach truth (**Jeremiah 18:18** and **Romans 3:8**).

3. Trying to get rid of evidence that supports the truth (**Matthew 28:1-15** and **John 12:9-11**).

4. Look to the wrong messengers (**II Timothy 4:1-4**).

5. Willing to even murder those that teach the truth (**Acts 5:12-33**).

B. Why? Jesus explains the why (**John 3:19-21**).

1. When people have pleasure in unrighteousness (**II Thessalonians 2:12**), they don’t want to change.

2. When people are happy in “their crowd” (**John 12:37-43**), they don’t want to change.

3. When people change the terms (**Isaiah 5:20** and **Malachi 2:17**), they don’t want to change.

C. In truth, the person who rejects the truth and the messenger of such is doing more harm to themselves than the person they attacked (**Proverbs 15:31-32** and **Hebrews 12:25**; cf. **Hebrews 2:1-3**).

1. As an evangelist, I understand that I am often teaching those that “oppose themselves” (**II Timothy 2:24-26**).

2. Looking back to the days of the prophets of old, people hated the truth so much that they ended up with no remedy (**II Chronicles 36:14-16**).
3. Listen, if you reject the truth those that teach truth will turn away their efforts (**Matthew 15:14**).
4. You may think you are just disagreeing with the messenger and rejecting him, but... **I Thessalonians 4:8**

III. Conclusion: Don't just think about those "out there" that won't hear the truth. Apply this to yourself. After you test and find something to be true (**I Thessalonians 5:21**), don't reject it (**Proverbs 8:33**). Don't be a fool (**Proverb 23:9**)!