

# THE CONTACT

AFLC YM Newsletter for those in contact with youth

Winter 2019

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## a crazy little thing called TRUTH

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Coffee  
Shop

## Objective Truth

Postmodernism.  
Subjectivism.  
Individualism.  
Relativism.  
Non-judgmentalism.

The common thread through these terms is the idea of TRUTH. We don't necessarily need to understand all the terminology, but I believe we must understand our culture. Our culture implores us to view truth through the lens of these big words. Truth has, according to our culture, become personal and subjective. Truths can be different things to different people, which is completely the opposite of the original meaning of truth.

Imagine a day in the life of a teenager. They go to school and are told they need to consider gender as fluid and subjective (the opposite of God's declaration: "male and female" Gen 1:27 and Matt 19:4). And yet that very same day, the clock on the wall declares them to be late for a class. There is complete subjectivism in the truth about gender, but absolutely zero subjectivism in the fact that they are tardy for class. The truth of the clock strikes again! It's no wonder that confusion sets in.

As ministers of the Gospel, we know the truth as it is declared in God's Word (John 17:17) and found in the person of Jesus Christ (John 14:6). But in our postmodern, subjective, relative culture; there is a huge gap between real biblical truth and what is being taught to our teens. How do we bridge this gap? I believe the answer is relationships. The biblical truths that our culture finds so hard to deal with need to be declared by or reinforced by a friend, mentor or trusted adult. This approach meets the students in their culture but doesn't water down the truth. The alternative to this (an impersonal presentation of biblical truth) often leads to confusion or hardness of hearts.

Then, when you have loved them and taught them, bathe them all in prayer, because our culture is coming at them from every side!



*Pastor Eric Rasmussen  
AFLC Youth Board Chair*



# YOUTH WORKERS WEEKENDS

January 17-19, 2020

## An Annual Retreat for Those Who Serve Teens

With Guest Trainer Bo Boshers,  
President of LEAD222



[www.aflc.org/youth](http://www.aflc.org/youth)

Registration Options:  
Saturday Seminar \$60  
One Night \$120  
Full Weekend \$150

**New for 2020:**  
**Buy One, Get One Half Off!**  
*(from the same congregation)*  
Best Rate by January 2, 2020



### Video Community

60-minute offerings for volunteer and vocational youth leaders

Tuesday, Dec 17 at 3PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/306350773>

Thursday, Dec 19 at 8PM (Central)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/437575669>





# Reference Room

By: Pr Jason Holt

## TRUTH: IT EXISTS, IT MATTERS, & IT APPLIES TO US ALL

### TRUTH EXISTS

If you are reading this column, then you most likely care about Jesus, the Bible, and young people. So I do not write to demonstrate to you an apologetic on the existence of truth, but rather to think through together something that you may have already noticed: teens' (and young adults') view on truth drastically influences their lives. How many times have you seen it?

A Barna Group blog entry from September 24, 2019, noted that one distinguishing mark of what they term "resilient disciples" is that they "trust firmly in the authority of the Bible."<sup>1</sup> We in our AFLC family affirm that the Scriptures are the sole source and norm for faith and life. We hold to the inspiration and inerrancy of God's Word. At the same time, the culture outside of our local congregations that teenagers are living in is finding truth denied, ignored, or mocked as a punch line. This tension will continue, because we know that our Living Lord is truth and that the world, the deceiver, and our own flesh twist truth. The Savior King does not change, so it becomes vital for us to acknowledge with the teens that truth exists. Almost forty years ago, Queen released the song *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. We may need to present to today's teens an adapted title of *Crazy Little Thing Called Truth*.

### TRUTH MATTERS

Scott Gibson in a CPYU Podcast entitled "*Should We Use Someone Else's Talk? Preaching in a Cut-And-Paste World*" describes the responsibility for a Christian leader to study a passage and to apply it to the group that the Lord has called this person to serve, while Gibson was addressing that Christian leaders are consistently lacking integrity on presenting other people's materials as their own.<sup>2</sup> If truth matters, then it needs to impact us first. We cannot skip the content study to rush on to the goal of impact with teens. If we are only applying it to others and not to ourselves, then it is most likely that we are limiting how the truth is renewing us.

As youth leaders, I am inviting all of us to renew our own conviction for how God's truth matters.

Do I want us to rightly handle the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15)? Yes! Most definitely. But from that same chapter, we are ones that need the strengthening of God's grace (verse 1) and the remembering of Jesus Christ (verse 8) like Timothy did as a leader. The Word of God is powerful, so we do not deny that the Bible works separate from us. At the same time, we yield ourselves to this truth. We are not hired hands, but rather under-shepherds serving the Good Shepherd.



# TRUTH: IT EXISTS, IT MATTERS, & IT APPLIES TO US ALL

Our 2007 Chevy Impala has been giving us trouble (and please know upfront in writing this one that I'm not a car guy). I found out the actuators which control the heating and air conditioning are going bad. These troubled parts create a clicking sound while the car is running and even when the vehicle is off. The acting up of these actuators appear to be draining our good battery in between uses of the car, so lately we have needed to jump the Chevy a few times.

This situation reminded me of how truth matters to us as Kingdom workers. We are like the car. By grace through faith, we have a running vehicle. We have received a new battery in our hearts. But in our sin nature that remains, we can still be drained by faulty parts – ones that ignore the truth or push the truth on others. It can take different forms, but our pride is certainly involved. The result is a dying vehicle, not perceptible at the beginning...but less and less responsive at the end. Thankfully we can be jump started again by God's truth!

## TRUTH APPLIES TO US ALL

Within his talk *"Preaching to the Heart"* at The Gospel Coalition in 2015, Tim Keller describes that we need to be "true to the truth and true to the people in front of you."<sup>2A</sup> When we celebrate together again that the truth exists and it matters to us, then we can move on to the application of it to others.

Howard Hendricks in his classic book *Teaching to Change Lives* explains that communicating God's truth is more than simply head-to-head information, but it involves heart-to-heart connection.<sup>3</sup> When I have shared this reality in the congregation and in the classroom, I watch the love for the Lord and the love for one's neighbor collide. The love for the Lord is present as we hold to this content from Scripture AKA "true to the truth" in Keller's words. The love for one another is experienced in truths being communicated to the people that we are with. As people that share Jesus with teenagers, we intersect their world by understanding them as listeners, which leads us

to listen as well. All the time, we are relying on the message of Christ.

I have seen myself get distracted at each level as a youth leader. I've stressed truth exists without moving on to how it matters or applies. I have set up shop on how it matters with my eyes regularly set on those that I am ministering with...while keeping its impact at arm's length from me. I have raised the attention on application without applying it first to my own heart.

It is time to let this crazy little thing called truth renew us all once again.



Pastor Jason Holt  
AFLC Director  
of Youth Ministries

## TRUTH CHECK REFERENCES

1 Barna Group – "Only 10% of Christian Twentysomethings Have Resilient Faith"

<https://www.barna.com/research/of-the-four-exile-groups-only-10-are-resilient-disciples/>

2 CPYU Podcast – "Should We Use Someone Else's Talk? Preaching in a Cut-And-Paste World" with Scott Gibson -AND-

2A Tim Keller at The Gospel Coalition – "Preaching to the Heart" YouTube Video  
(Both 2 & 2A are on the same webpage)

<https://cpyu.org/resource/episode-46-should-we-use-someone-elses-talk-or-sermon-with-scott-gibson/>

3 Howard Hendricks – "Teaching to Change Lives"

<https://www.christianbook.com/teaching-to-change-lives/howard-hendricks/9781590521380/pd/521382>

# Convenience Store



## **8 Questions to Ask Your High School Senior – Fuller Youth Institute**

[fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/8-questions-high-school-senior](http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/8-questions-high-school-senior)



## **CPYU Teen Suicide – Free Download on Warning Signs & Cries for Help**

[cpyu.org/resource/trend-alert-teen-suicide-warning-signs-and-cries-for-help/](http://cpyu.org/resource/trend-alert-teen-suicide-warning-signs-and-cries-for-help/)



## **Free Refills Podcast – National Network of Youth Ministries**

[www.youthworkers.net/podcast.htm](http://www.youthworkers.net/podcast.htm)



## **Screen Accountability – Covenant Eyes**

[www.covenanteyes.com/services/](http://www.covenanteyes.com/services/)

# Features

*click a pic to see the link*



Video  
Community



Youth  
Workers  
Weekends



FLBC  
Campus  
Days



FLY Beyond 2020



Apprenticeship  
Program

Youth  
Ministry  
Apprentices



See You  
At The Pole



AFLC Youth  
Ministries

## AFLC Youth Ministries: A Treasury of Opportunities

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**Dec. 17 & 19, 2019**

**Video Community**

Third Tues & Thurs in  
Dec, Feb, Apr

**Jan. 17-19, 2020**

**YW Weekends**

Annual event for those  
who serve teens

**April 17-19, 2020**

**FLBC Campus Days**

**Jul. 19-23, 2020**

**FLY Beyond**

Youth equipping week

**May 31, 2020**

**YM Apprenticeship  
Program Application**

**Sep. 23, 2020**

**See You At The Pole**

National student day of  
prayer

**AFLC Youth Ministries**

**Here to serve you!**

**[www.aflc.org/youth](http://www.aflc.org/youth)**





# AFLC Youth Ministries



**Mr. Daniel Keinanen**

*FLY Convention® Coordinator*  
flycc@aflc.org

**Mr. Jordan Langness**

*AFLC YM Training Coordinator*  
ymtraining@aflc.org

**Pastor Jason Holt**

*National Youth Director*  
jasonholt@aflc.org

**Ms. Liz McCarlson**

*AFLC Admin. Assistant*  
lizmccarlson@aflc.org

**Pastor Eric Christenson**

*AFLC YM Networking Coordinator*  
ymnetworking@aflc.org

**Mrs. Chris Rasmussen**

*AFLC YM Admin. Coordinator*  
chrisr@aflc.org

## FOR YOUTH WORKERS

**The Contact** is issued twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC).

## FOR CONGREGATIONS

The AFLC is a fellowship of 250+ congregations whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus.

## FOR TEENAGERS

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win teens to Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, to equip them to live and share their faith, and to multiply maturing teen disciples of Jesus.

**CONTACT AFLC YOUTH MINISTRIES: 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd, Plymouth MN 55441 | 763.545.5631**

