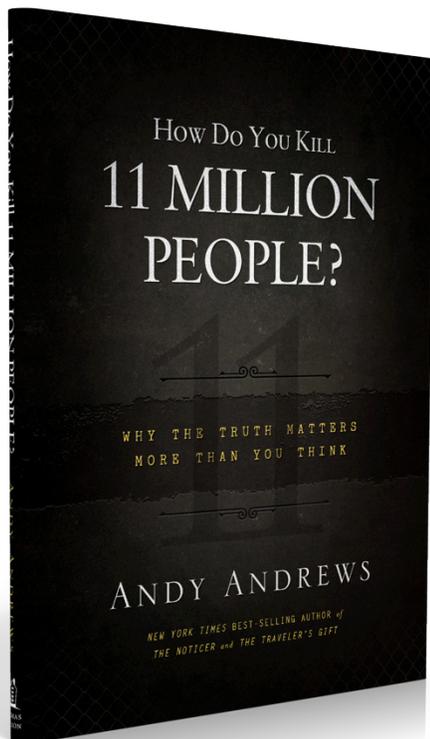


How Do You Kill 11 Million People?

by Andy Andrews



Sermon Series - 3 Truth: Knowing or Living

“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one body.”

- Ephesians 4:25, NASB

It is important to know the truth, but far more important to live in the truth. It is human nature to see how others may say one thing and live another but be blind to that disconnect in our own lives. We overlook our individual behavior while chastising or judging others who do nothing more than we have done. God's truth is not theoretical or philosophical; it is intensely and piercingly practical and intended to be expressed in our daily living. My congruence in both knowing and living the truth amplifies or erodes my power to speak to others. More pointedly, if I hold others to standards of truthfulness I do not personally embrace, I am a hypocrite. Ultimately, the value I actually place in truth is irrefutably displayed in the life I live each day. Do I tell the truth?

There will be no culture or environment of truth unless individuals first live the truth in their own lives. Building a life of truth may not be easy, comfortable, or without challenge, but it will be worth whatever disciplines I must build into my life in order to live and speak authentically and with moral authority. This is surely part of the freedom that God's truth facilitates in my heart, spirit, and mind. When others see the integrity of a life that speaks—and lives—by truth they may be challenged to confront themselves in the matter.

I.

Truth begins in us with relationship to the source of truth: God. I Peter 3:15; Psalm 139:23-24

- A.** He saved us by His grace, for His purposes – Ephesians 2:8-10
- B.** He works to make us more like Jesus – Ephesians 3:16-19
- C.** We daily submit and conform to His Lordship – Ephesians 4:20 – 5:1; John 15:4-11

II.

Truth frames and changes our thinking – Romans 12:1-2

- A. There is much to change – Ephesians 5:8-10**
- B. The Person of the Holy Spirit is the power for change – Ephesians 5:18-21; John 16:13-15**

“It is astonishing what force, purity, and wisdom it requires for a human being to keep clear of falsehoods.” – Margaret Fuller
- C. We become more and more like Jesus in thought and behavior – Acts 4:13; Romans 8:29**

“We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth.” – Charles Stanley

III.

Truth changes our words: Ephesians 4:25, 31

- A. The model for changing our words is Jesus Himself - I Peter 2:22**
- B. The mandate for change is the character and Word of God – I Peter 1:15-16**

“Without absolutes revealed from without by God Himself, we are left rudderless in a sea of conflicting ideas about manners, justice, and right and wrong, issuing from a multitude of self-opinionated thinkers.” – John Owen
- C. The method for changing our words is to discipline the heart and tongue – Proverbs 4:23-24; Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45; James 3**

“The inner thought coming from the heart represents the real motives and desires. These are the cause of action.” – Raymond Holliwell

 - 1. What we say; nothing but the truth – Matthew 5:37**

“There is a reason why the oath contains the words, ‘the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth’. It matters!” – Unknown
 - 2. What we don't say – Proverbs 4:19; Ephesians 4:29; James 3:8-11**
- D. The motive for change is to reflect God and be useful to others – Matthew 5:16**
- E. The milieu of change is every conversation, relationship, and environment in which we find ourselves**

1. **Speaking truth with a spouse, parent, child, sibling, friend**
2. **Speaking truth with an employer, employee, business associate**
3. **Speaking truth with group, constituency, organization, or the general public**

"If you are of the truth, if you have learned the truth, if you see the sanctity of the truth, then speak truth. We are not called to be deceivers or liars. God is a God of truth, and His people are called to have an enormously high standard of truth." – R. C. Sproul

IV.

Truth impacts our areas of influence when our lives match our words – Matthew 5:16

A. We earn influence with lives congruent to our words – I Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8

B. We use influence to advance truth, justice, and righteousness – Isaiah 1:17; Ezekiel 34:15-16; Zechariah 7:9; Matthew 23:23

"It's not enough to rage against the lie...you've got to replace it with the truth." – Bono

C. We learn that there is always opposition to truth, in every realm and at every level – Acts 7:54-60

"Truth offends everyone outside its definitions. But the irony of truth is that the greater its potential for offense, the greater its potential for giving hope." – David Jeremiah

"Truth always carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation; loving confrontation nevertheless. If our reflex action is always accommodation regardless of the centrality of the truth involved, there is something wrong." – Francis Schaeffer

D. We lose our voice for truth when we disconnect the concept from our daily lives

E. We have the opportunity to be "salt and light" in our world; a privilege and a stewardship – Matthew 5:13-16

"Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." – Chinese Proverb

Conclusion:

- The irrefutable evidence that we know the truth is that our lives reflect it.
- God's character is truth; He grows us into people of the truth.
- Living in truth changes our hearts and thus our words.
- Living / speaking truth earns influence and opportunity to glorify God and serve mankind.

Sermon Content created by Rick and Jan Loy

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