

Simply One Page- It's True, but I'm Still Learning To Live In It

This piece was created from my own reflections and vision. I used ChatGPT as a tool to help shape the text from my original concepts and structure. The final form is the result of thoughtful revision motivated by my one page intent. Mike Haddorff 2625

One of the quiet confusions in Christian faith is how easily we slide back and forth between what is objectively true and what we subjectively experience, often without noticing the difference. We speak as if these are the same thing. But they are not. And when we blur them, the gospel itself gets distorted.

At the heart of the Christian confession is a claim about reality. Something decisive happened in Jesus Christ. Not symbolically. Not hypothetically. Not conditionally. What is true in Christ is true for humanity, across time, culture, and belief. This is not a future possibility waiting on our response; it is an accomplished reality.

In a participatory understanding of the Cross, Jesus did not merely die for us as a separate individual. He died as us. He entered fully into the human condition, carried it through death, and brought it into new life. This is not something humanity achieves. It is something humanity is given. Objectively. Irrevocably.

And yet, this raises an honest question: if this is already true, why don't we live as if it is?

The New Testament seems keenly aware of this gap. Again and again, it speaks of believing, receiving, abiding, knowing, walking, living. These words are often treated as conditions, things we must do to make salvation real. But read more carefully, they point to something else entirely. They describe the degree to which we are able to embrace what is already true.

Belief, in this sense, is not mental agreement or doctrinal precision. It is trust. It is consent. It is learning to live from a reality that precedes our awareness of it. The gospel does not announce what could be true if we respond correctly; it announces what is true and invites us to awaken to it.

This is why Jesus can speak in both completed and invitational language. "The Son has set you free," he says, past tense. And yet he also calls people to follow, to remain, to abide. Freedom is not earned by belief; it is experienced through it. Truth does not become true when it is known. Truth sets free when it is known.

The Cross, then, is not a mechanism God requires in order to forgive. It is a revelation of how deeply God has already joined himself to humanity. The distance we often feel is not the absence of God, but our limited awareness of God's nearness.

The journey of faith is not about making something true. It is about learning to live from what has always been true.

And as that awareness grows, freedom follows, not later, not elsewhere, but here and now.