Admitting your Wrong?

Years ago I ran into a young lady in Washington D.C. that believed women should be allowed to preach from the pulpit on Sundays. I asked the woman if she believed that the word of God is the final word on any given religious topic. She replied, “Yes.” The next day I brought my Bible and read to her from 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. Her reply indicated an unwillingness to act based upon revealed facts. She replied, “I don’t care, I still believe a woman should be able to preach at the church.” When faced with truth, this young lady chose her own course rather than God’s divine standard. She was unwilling to admit that she was wrong. We probably have all face such moments in life. We were so convinced that we had something figured out yet when the truth was presented we were challenged to give up our error. Did you admit that you were wrong or do you continue to deceive yourself today?

The word of God gives examples of people who were given truth yet refused to act upon the standard of righteousness and justice. King Zedekiah is a good example. Zedekiah reminds us of Pilate when Jesus was on trial. Both seemed to lack the backbone that their inner conscience demanded. Zedekiah allowed Jeremiah to be thrown into a miry pit by the prophet’s detractors. Not long afterwards the king, out of a spirit of fear, freed the prophet with the aid of thirty men (see Jeremiah 38:4-5, 7ff). Zedekiah often sought Jeremiah’s advice. The king heard the words of Jeremiah as the prophet said, “obey the voice of Jehovah” (Jeremiah 38:20). Zedekiah knew the command of the Lord but said, “I am afraid” (Jeremiah 38:20). The prophet Samuel identified Saul’s acts as “Evil in the sight of Jehovah” (1 Samuel 15:11).

The first king of Israel, Saul, is another example of one who knew God’s commands yet through a spirit of fear failed to do as the Lord commanded. Saul was given a command to “utterly destroy” all the Amalekites, yet he spared the king (Agag) and many of the flocks (1 Samuel 15:3ff). The prophet Samuel identified Saul’s acts as “Evil in the sight of Jehovah” (1 Samuel 15:19).
Saul had "rejected the word of Jehovah" much like Zedekiah had. These two kings were presented with God's truths yet rejected them for their own vices (1 Samuel 15:26).

When the apostle Paul made his defense before the Roman governor Felix and his wife Drusilla, the truth was presented yet rejected. Philip the Evangelist had been preaching in the area of Caesarea for approximately 24 years. Consequently, Felix had "exact knowledge" of the gospel message (Acts 24:22). Paul's message was one of righteousness, self-control, and judgment (Acts 24:25). Felix and Drusilla were unlawfully married, and the message was alarming to them. When faced with the decision to accept the message, Felix replied, "Go thy way for this time; and when I have a convenient season, I will call thee unto me" (Acts 24:5).

These three cases illustrate how individuals may perceive truth, be pricked in their hearts of sin, and yet fail to act upon their knowledge of right and wrong. Every man and woman are called upon to make decisions in life based upon the truths and facts they perceive. Will a man obey the gospel when the truth is put before him? Will a woman commit sin though the truth on the matter is clearly known? Will one accept a false doctrine without investigation simply because a beloved brother in Christ has brought this to them? What will your answer be when the time to make a decision based upon presented facts are delivered to you?

You and I may reject or accept truth but our personal judgments will never change the consequences of sinful living. Those who reject God's plea for repentance shall suffer an eternity of punishment with the devil and his angels (see 2 Thessalonians 1:8 and Revelation 20:10-15). There are consequences to not acting upon divine truths.

Conclusion:

The secondary lesson is that marriage is serious and should be entered with each party knowing all that each other bring to the table. Marriage is to be held in honor and the bed undefiled (Hebrews 13:4). Far too many people are entering marriage not knowing their bride to be well enough. Both must enter marriage with the approach to it being permanent. The primary objective, however, is to help man understand the Lord's demand for our perfection. My actions, thoughts, and even my influence must be clean that I may be forgiven of sins.