

Truth is not open to interpretation

Posted: Wednesday, June 20, 2018

It has become obvious many readers do not know how to engage in a healthy debate concerning the thorny issues currently dividing us as a nation. I believe the problem stems from an inability by some to formulate a valid argument.

Fundamental to this dysfunction is a willful ignorance regarding how we go about deciding what is actually true. It is difficult to productively resolve a dispute when we can't even agree on what constitutes reality.

So, in the interest of enlightening my peers on this process, I offer the following clarifications which should help to effectively separate fact from fiction in a more efficient manner.

First of all, we need to recognize and accept that truth is not relative. There are no "alternative" facts; there are only facts. Truth exists independently of how it is interpreted by different individuals and it can be objectively and explicitly determined.

Second, truth is not comparative. Defending someone's behavior by comparing it to what others have done in the past does not constitute a legitimate justification. What Obama or anyone else did then, for example, does not excuse what Trump or anyone else is doing now.

And by the way, referencing a "double-standard" simply means you can't justify the conduct on its own merits.

Third, truth is not contextual. If a practice is wrong in one instance, it is wrong in every instance. Separating children from their parents is ethically and morally repugnant under any circumstance, regardless of the country of origin or citizenship status of those involved.

Finally, truth is not partisan. An act is not "good" or "bad" depending upon the party affiliation of the person committing the act. Case in point: An irresponsible posture toward addressing the national deficit will eventually lead to economic disaster regardless of who occupies the White House.

Aaron W. Hughey
Bowling Green

www.bgdailynews.com