

# 5 Fast Facts—Fake News

**Subject:** When the news is biased & factually incorrect, citizens are ill informed and manipulated – they cannot be “informed voters”

**Context:** Mainstream media claims to be fair and balanced but is clearly “left leaning” and critical of conservative values

**So What Can You Do?** WATCH! Seek news outlets so you can understand “both sides” of a story -- to find truth somewhere in the middle. Also, we should all be curating our own alternative news resources that engage in investigative journalism and who earn credibility with us over time. We can’t assume that news is only news if the main stream media chooses to report it.

1. Scripture shows that **God upholds truth** – not misleading others

**1Pe 2:1** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy & all evil speaking

**Malice**—the harboring of evil thoughts against another person. **Malice** nourishes antagonism, builds up grudges, and secretly hopes that revenge, harm, or tragedy will overtake another. George Washington Carver was refused admission at a university because he was black. Years later, when someone asked him the name of the university, he replied, “Never mind. That doesn't matter now.” He harbored no malice.

**Deceit**—any form of dishonesty and trickery (and what a variety of forms it takes!). **Deceit** falsifies income tax returns, cheats on exams, lies about age, bribes officials, and pulls shady deals in business.

**Hypocrisy**—insincerity, pretense, sham. The hypocrite is a play-actor, pretending to be someone he is not. He pretends to be happily married when his home is actually a battlefield. He pretends to be spiritual but he is as carnal as a goat. He pretends interest in others but his motives are selfish.

**Envy**—bare-faced jealousy. Vine defines it as the feeling of displeasure produced by observing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others. It was **envy** that caused the chief priests to deliver Jesus up to Pilate for death ([Mat 27:18](#)). **Envy** is still a killer. Women can look daggers at others because of their better homes and gardens, smarter clothes, or superior cooking. A man can praise another fellow's new car or speedboat but what he is thinking is, “I'll show him. I'll get something better.”

**Evil speaking**—backbiting, malicious gossip, recrimination. Slander is the attempt to make oneself look cleaner by slinging mud at someone else. It may take very subtle forms such as: “Yes, she is a lovely person but she has this one failing ... .” and then the knife is deftly thrust into her back. Or it may even have a religious pose: “I mention this only for your prayer fellowship, but did you know that he ... .” and then the character is assassinated.

2. Only 7% of American journalists identify as Republican. 96 percent of journalists (permitted by their employers to donate) last time out gave to Hillary Clinton. Groupthink & **confirmation bias** clouds objectivity. Also, owners and leadership of NBC, CBS & CNN are strong Democratic supporters. Whenever left-wing prejudices are confirmed by a single event, that event is treated as **representative**. But whenever left-wing prejudices are contradicted by a single event, that event is treated as an **isolated incident** – and if you treat it as representative, you are deemed to be hateful.

3 When a scandal breaks on the right, **the news** is the scandal. When a scandal breaks on the left, the news is: **who wrongfully disclosed** that scandalous information? (The Right may also desire to determine the source, but the Left media often ignores this as they focus on the scandal)

4. Individual extremists on the **right** are highlighted, but the overall extremism of the **left** is ignored. Eg “Radical” **Tea party** sought small government vs **Occupy Wall Street’s** “heroes” use violence & vandalism to promote socialism (as does ANTIFA in suppressing free speech).

5. Per Cheryl Atkinson’s book “The Smear” there are 3 problems with today’s Journalism:

- Firewalls separating “news” from “opinion” are gone. Editorializing in news stories, & including “opinion” is no longer forbidden – it’s encouraged! Result – it has never been harder for the public to separate real news & real “facts”
- Journalists (in the past) treated politicians the same whether they personally liked them or disliked them (eg forgiving some misstatements of some ... while making a “big story” of other missteps)
- Journalists have become tools of politicians and spin-masters to get something in return. In Canada, the CBC gets \$1.6 billion in annual funding by the Liberal government and newspapers and magazines recently were given \$600 million ... it is a strong incentive to write positive stories about the current government.

**Source of some ideas:**

1. Believer's Bible Commentary
2. <https://www.prageru.com/video/what-is-fake-news/>
3. <https://www.prageru.com/video/what-is-fake-news/>
4. <https://www.prageru.com/video/what-is-fake-news/>
5. <https://www.prageru.com/video/why-no-one-trusts-the-mainstream-media/>  
Cheryl Atkinson, “The Smear”