After reading the texts “The Examined Life”, “Genealogy of Morals”, and “Meditations on First Philosophy”, find a common thread that ties the three texts together. From each text, give an example to support your findings.
I. Cornel West, Friedrich Nietzsche, and René Descartes all believed that truth is the basis of all human understanding.

A. “The Examined Life”

B. “The Genealogy Of Morals”

C. “Meditations on First Philosophy”
II. What is truth?
A. Encarta Dictionary states truth as something factual
B. The thing that corresponds to fact or reality
C. Truths are things that can be factually supported
D. Truths are things that the majority of people generally believe
The Examined Life

III. “The Examined Life”
A. "We could be wrong. We have to be open to revision and so on"
B. There is no absolute truth
C. Truths are individual to each person
D. Our beliefs change
IV. “The Examined Life”
A. "It takes more courage to examine the dark corners of your own soul, than it does for a soldier to fight on the battlefield."
B. It’s easier to point out, and face, someone else’s faults before facing your own.
C. It’s hard to quiet your own ego when looking at yourself.
D. Without this introspection, you will never know what your truth is.
V. “The Genealogy Of Morals”

A. "Man, with his need for self-torture...invented bad conscience"

B. Conscience (or bad conscience) is man-made.

C. A way to keep in line by guilt

D. Self-destructive
VI. “The Genealogy Of Morals”
A. "He focused in God the last of the opposites he could find to his true and inveterate animal instincts, making these a sin against God"
B. Man went against nature; Made instincts a sin (to want to kill is natural; to covet-or want-something is natural).
C. With his guilt, man is depriving his natural feelings
D. Self-destructive
VII. “Meditations on First Philosophy”

A. "For if I always understood clearly what is true and what is good, I would never need to deliberate about what judgment and what choice I ought to make"

B. If humans always knew God’s Absolute Truth, they would never choose wrong.

C. God is Absolute Truth

D. God is perfect and humans imperfect
VIII. "Meditations on First Philosophy"

A. "Moreover, that indifference which I feel when I am not more moved toward one side than the other by the weight of some reason is the lowest degree of liberty, and is rather a defect in the understanding than a perfection of the will"

B. If you don’t know the truth, it is a defect in yourself rather than God.

C. God is perfect so you cannot blame him for your own misunderstandings

D. We must strive to be like God to understand life’s truths/meanings
Differences in Truths

IX. Differences in truths

a. Cornel West—there is no absolute truths

b. Friedrich Nietzsche—man created truths to punish themselves

c. René Descartes—God is Absolute Truth
Cornel West, Friedrich Nietzsche, and René Descartes all believed that truth is the basis of all human understanding.

A. “The Examined Life”
B. “The Genealogy Of Morals”
C. “Meditations on First Philosophy”