

# GRACE AND TRUTH

**JOHN 1: 1-5, 14**

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING.

THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE.

IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL MANKIND.

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY; THE GLORY OF THE ONE AND ONLY SON, WHO CAME FROM THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

(BARNA RESEARCH)

WE ARE NOW CONSIDERED TO LIVE IN A HIGHLY **POST - CHRISTIAN CULTURE**.

*PRE-CHRISTIANS: HAVEN'T REALLY HAD MUCH IDEA / EXPOSURE ABOUT GOD, ABOUT CHRISTIANITY*

*POST-CHRISTIANS: PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT IT, OR EVEN BEEN CHRISTIANS..... HAD DECIDEDLY REJECTED IT, DON'T THINK THAT GOD IS RELEVANT, DON'T THINK THAT FAITH IS IMPORTANT.*

WE LIVE IN A GENERATION THAT DELIBERALLY REBELLED, REJECTED THE MESSAGE OF JESUS.

*LOOK AT EUROPE..... PEOPLE GO TO CATHEDRAL AS TOURISTS TO TAKE PICTURES FOR SOMETHING THAT'S NOT HAPPENING ANYMORE!*

BUT HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW,

WE ARE CALLED TO INFLUENCE CULTURE..... WE DO NOT RUN FROM THE CULTURE.

## HOW DO WE FAITHFULLY LIVE FOR JESUS, IN AN INCREASINGLY POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE??

- JOHN 1:14 ANSWERS THIS FOR US.....
- WE SHOULD LIVE WITH "GRACE AND TRUTH".

ONE OF THE BIGGER CHALLENGES WE HAVE TODAY, AS JESUS FOLLOWERS.....

IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE LIVE WITH **BOTH GRACE AND TRUTH**.

ONE BIG PROBLEMS

FOR TOO LONG..... MANY CHURCHES HAD LEANED ONE WAY TOO FAR, OR THE OTHER WAY TOO FAR.

SOME OF YOU MIGHT HAVE GROWN UP AROUND THE **TRUTH CULTURE**.

IT'S ALL TRUTH TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH!!

- *THE BIBLE SAYS.....*
- *YOU NEED TO REPENT..... OTHERWISE YOU'RE GOING TO HELL.*
- *THE LAW SAYS YOU GOTTA DO THIS..... OTHERWISE.....*

THE OTHER SIDE, THAT IS EQUALLY DANGEROUS

IS **GRACE GRACE GRACE.....NO TRUTH**

HONESTLY THIS IS MORE OF WHERE "POPULAR CULTURE" IS MOVING TODAY!!

- *GOD LOVES US..... BE HAPPY, BE BLESSED.....*
- *YOU'RE LOVED WITH UNCONDITIONAL LOVE..... DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.*

THERE PROBLEM WITH CULTURE IS.....

- CULTURE NEVER LASTS!
- CULTURE IS ONLY A SEASON.
- CULTURE IS RELATIVE, CULTURE IS NOT THE TRUTH
- THE ONLY THING THAT LASTS IS JESUS!
- JESUS IS THE TRUTH!

MANY PEOPLE ASKS.....

*SO ARE YOU A TRUTH PERSON.....OR ARE YOU A GRACE PERSON??*

*OR CAN WE PREACH MORE OF THE BIBLE..... RATHER THAN KEEP PREACHING ABOUT GRACE?*

WHAT THEY DON'T GET IS.....

- **IT'S NOT TRUTH WITHOUT GRACE.**
- **AND IT'S NOT GRACE WITHOUT TRUTH.**
- THEY ARE ONE.
- WE NEED TO BE GRACE PEOPLE, AND TRUTH PEOPLE.
- NOT HALF GRACE, AND NOT HALF TRUTH. TAKING SIDES, 50-50.
- BUT THE BIBLE SAYS, 100%.... FULL OF GRACE.... AND FULL OF TRUTH!!

THAT IS WHY IN THE MOVEMENT CHURCH.....

**WE BELIEVE IN PREACHING AND TEACHING THE FULL GOSPEL.**

- *WE NEED TO TEACH THE TRUTH WITH GRACE!*
- *WE NEED TO LOVE WITH GRACE AND TRUTH!*

WE ARE PEOPLE FULL OF FAITH,

BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO LIVE & LEAD FULL OF WISDOM OF GOD!

ANY AMEN?!

**WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ONE ASPECT OF JESUS, WITHOUT THE OTHER?**

**TRUTH WITHOUT GRACE LEADS TO RULES AND REBELLION.**

SOME OF US GROWN UP WITH RULES RULE RULES.....

*NO LIPSTICK NO MOVIES NO TV NO DATING*

SOME PEOPLE GREW UP WITH RULES

AND THE IMPLICATION WAS....

- *IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO RULES, YOU'RE RIGHT WITH GOD.....*
- *IF YOU'RE NOT LIVING ACCORDING TO OUR RULES, YOU'RE NOT RIGHT WTH GOD...*

AND IT LEADS TO **REBELLION**.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, IS JUST CREATE RULES..... AND SOMEBODY WILL REBEL.

- IF YOU HAVE TODDLERS, YOU KNOW WHAT IM TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW.
- *DON'T TOUCH THAT.....THEY LOOK YOU IN THE EYE, THEY WILL JUST POKE IT.*

- *2 YEAR OLD DAKOTA..... DON'T DO THAT..... SHE DELIBERATELY Poured THAT IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE!*

THE FASTEST WAY TO RAISE A REBELLIOUS KID, IS TO HAVE RULES WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP.

### **RULES WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP LEADS TO REBELLION.**

TRUTH WITHOUT GRACE LEADS TO RULES (LEGALISM) AND IT LEADS TO REBELLION.

Rules, Legalism can sometimes be seen in Christians that can get self-righteous (Oh I know this....Oh I do this....) and in times, can get judgemental towards others that don't live up to their 'standards'.

RULES WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP LEADS TO REBELLION.

THIS IS THE PROBLEM WE NOTICED IN HOMES, IN FAMILIES, IN CHRISTIANS TOO.

- WHEN ALL THEY KNEW, OR BEEN TREATED WITH RULES.....
- WITHOUT ANY RELATIONSHIP..... WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHO THE FATHER AND MOTHER IS...
- WITHOUT KNOWING THEIR HEART, THEIR INTENTION.....
- WITHOUT FEELING THE DEEP LOVE BEHIND THE DISCIPLINE.
- THE RESULT WAS **REBELLION, BITTERNESS, BACK-SLIDING**
- JUST BECAUSE THEY ONLY SAW, AND EXPERIENCED HALF OF THE PICTURE.....

ON THE OTHER HAND.....THERE IS THE OTHER EXTREME.....

THERE IS GRACE WITHOUT TRUTH.

### **GRACE WITHOUT TRUTH LEADS TO "DO WHATEVER YOU WANT" AND "BELIEVE WHATEVER".**

**DO WHATEVER YOU WANT = LICENSE**

**BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT = RELATIVISM**

#### **LICENSE - "DO WHATEVER YOU WANT"**

- *DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.*
- *GOD UNDERSTANDS.*
- *NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO TELL YOU HOW TO LIVE.*
- *ANYWAY, I BELIVE IN JESUS*
- *HE'S GOOD AND MERCIFUL, HE WILL FORGIVE ME ANYWAY*

HERE'S THE GREAT FEAR...

MANY PEOPLE LOVE GETTING LITTLE SNIPPETS OF JESUS.....

**"JUST ENOUGH" TO MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD, BUT "NOT ENOUGH" TO TRANSFORM YOU.**

*"GOD IS GOOD, HIS MERCY IS BRAND NEW EVERY MORNING...."*

DON'T WORRY, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.....YOU'RE ALL COVERED BY HIS LOE AND MERCY.

*"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS THAT I HAVE FOR YOU.....PLANS TO BLESS YOU AND PROSPER YOU."*

OH SO GOOD, I GOT JESUS IN ME!

BUT NOT SO MUCH..... THAT YOU'RE BEING CONFORMED DAILY INTO HIS IMAGE.

IT'S A LITTLE BIT LIKE GETTING **FLU SHOT!**

- THEY GIVE A LITTLE BIT OF THE FLU VIRUS --- SO IT MAKES YOU RESISTANT TO ALL OF IT.
- THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE, THEY HAVE JUST ENOUGH OF JESUS.....
- TO KEEP THEM FROM EXPERIENCING THE **FULLNESS OF WHO HE REALLY IS, AND ALL THAT GOD HAS FOR THEM.**
- JUST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD..... BUT NOT ENOUGH TO **TRANSFORM ME.**
- HEY I GOT JESUS! IM INVINSIBLE..... I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.

GRACE WITHOUT TRUTH LEADS TO.....

### **RELATIVISM - "BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT"**

THIS IS THE POPULAR MINDSET IN THE CULTURE TODAY,  
WHICH IS PEOPLE WOULD ARGUE..... THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "ABSOLUTE TRUTH."

SO SINCE WE LIVE IN A RELATIVISTIC..... WHAT WOULD 'TRUTH' BE?

- *AS LONG AS IT MAKES YOU HAPPY..... THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.*
- *AS LONG AS YOU'RE SINCERE..... YOU CAN BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT.*
- *AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HURT ANYBODY..... YOU CAN LIVE AND DO WHATEVER MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD.*

BUT CHURCH, JESUS CAME....THE WORD MADE FLESH....

**FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**

WHICH ONE CAME FIRST?

GRACE CAME FIRST.....

BUT PERHAPS GRACE WAS LISTED FIRST..... BECAUSE WE NEED TO LEAD WITH GRACE, BEFORE WE JUST CRAMP TRUTH DOWN PEOPLE'S THROAT.

WE NEED TO LEAD WITH GRACE.

CREATE A CULTURE OF GRACE..... BECAUSE JESUS CAME WITH FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

### **PEOPLE NEED TO BELONG BEFORE THEY BELIEVE**

OUR CHURCH.....

NEEDS TO BE A SAFE PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO BELONG, EVEN BEFORE THEY BELIEVE.

- WE NEED TO A SAFE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE WELCOMED, LOVED FIRST..... EVEN BEFORE THEY BELIEVE.

### **PEOPLE NEED TO BELONG BEFORE THEY BEHAVE**

WE NEED TO BE A SAFE PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO BELONG, EVEN BEFORE THEY BEHAVE....ACCORDING TO WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT.

OUR MESSAGE IS NOT.....

- *LIVE THE WAY WE TELL YOU TO LIVE.....AND YOU CAN BE IN OUR CLUB.*
- *STOP DOING BAD STUFFS.....AND YOU CAN BE PART OF US.*
- *CONFORM YOUR LIFESTYLE TO MY LIFESTYLE..... AND THEN YOU CAN FOLLOW JESUS.*

OUR MESSAGE IS.....

- *COME TO JESUS, AS YOU ARE.*
- *COME TO JESUS, AND HE WILL TRANSFORM YOU.*
- *AND HE WILL LOVE YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT.*

ITS NOT "CLEAN UP" FIRST..... BUT "COME TO JESUS" FIRST.

- REMEMBER..... **WHY WE DO NEED CHURCH**.... *IF ITS ALL FOR PERFECT PEOPLE IN THERE?!*
- THE CHURCH EXISTS FOR THE **BROKEN**, FOR THE **LOST**, FOR THE **HURTING**, FOR THOSE **DEALING WITH ADDICTION, PROBLEMS, ISSUES IN THEIR LIFE.**
- THE CHURCH DOES NOT EXIST JUST FOR THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS ---- THIS IS NOT A MEMBERSHIP CLUB!!

THE MOVEMENT CHURCH.....

**WE LEAD WITH GRACE, BUT NOT EVER COMPROMISING TRUTH.**

AND THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE.....

THIS SO CALLED YOUNGER GENERATION GETS FREAKY WHEN YOU MENTION ABOUT TRUTH  
THEY ARE ALREADY SKEPTICAL ABOUT CHRISTIANS.....

AND THIS EMERGING GENERATIONS IN THE WAY THEY THINK.....

THEY ARE NOT LOOKING SO MUCH FOR CERTAINTY, AS THEY ARE IN HONESTY AND AUTHENTICITY.

*"SO DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS? DO YOU EVER STRUGGLE? DO YOU EVER HAVE DOUBTS?"*

WE AS CHURCHES, AS CHRISTIANS..... WE HAVEN'T ALWAYS GOT IT RIGHT.

WE NEED TO LEAD WITH **TRUTH AND GRACE**.

- *TELLING THE TRUTH WHILE SHOWING GRACE*
- *HAVING THE COURAGE AND LOVE TO TELL THE TRUTH*

HERE IS THE THING.....

WE CANNOT SHOW TRUTH WITHOUT GRACE!

FOR A GENERATION THAT FEELS LIKE TRUTH IS ARROGANT AND IRRELEVANT.....

WE NEED TO HELP THEM SEE THAT TRUTH IS NOT RESTRICTIVE, REPRESSIVE, OPPRESSIVE.

- TRUTH IS FREEING
- TRUTH IS LIBERATING
- TRUTH IS LIFE-GIVING.
  
- TRUTH IS NOT JUST MORALS.
- TRUTH IS NOT JUST A "WHAT"
- TRUTH IS ALSO A "WHO".

TRUTH IS NOT JUST AN IDEA..... TRUTH IS ALSO A PERSON.

JESUS SAID, **"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE." - JOHN 14: 6**

AND WHEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH....

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE!

**JOHN 8: 32**

**...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

- THE TRUTH DOES NOT OPPRESS, RESTRICT YOU WITH RULES
- THE TRUTH DOES NOT SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU
- TRUTH FREES YOU
- TRUTH EMPOWERS YOU
- TRUTH LIBERATES YOU TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE

ALL THE WAY..... BACK INTO **THE GARDEN OF EDEN.....**

GOD SAID TO **ADAM AND EVE....**

**“YOU CAN EAT ANYYY TREES IN THE GARDEN.... JUST NOT THAT ONE.”**

- *“OH GOD, YOU ARE SO RESTRICTIVE!!”*
- *“BE FRUITFUL, MULTIPLY!!”*
  
- *I’M GIVING YOU ALL THIS LIFE, THAT ONE IS DEATH, STAY AWAY FROM THAT*
- *ENJOY YOUR LIFE..... THERE’S ONE TO STAY AWAY FROM.... ENJOY THE REST*

IT’S **LIFE-GIVING!**

THE OTHER PROBLEM IS GRACE GRACE GRACE..... NOT TRUTH.

- CHURCHES IN THE 50'S SOARING
- STONED / PERSECUTED IN THE 60'S
- EVEN WHEN PEOPLE SOBER UP IN 70'S, IN THE 80S STILL NOT COMING BACK TO CHURCH.

AND THEY THINK...

- *WE NEED TO TAKE THE GOSPEL AND PRESENT IT IN A WAY THAT MATTERS.*
- *WE NEED TO BE MORE RELEVANT.*
- *WE NEED TO EXPLAIN IT IN A WAY THAT IMPACTS LIFE IN DAILY LEVEL.*

THE CHALLENGE IS,

IN EFFORT TO BE RELEVANT AND COOL.

- SOME ACCIDENTALLY CHOSE **STYLE** OVER **SUBSTANCE**
- ITS "HOW WE DO IT, HOW WE MARKET IT, HOW WE LOOK / FEEL"
- NOT ENOUGH FOCUS ON "WHAT WE SAY, WHAT WE PREACH..."

NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING COOL AND RELEVANT.

HERES THE PROBLEM.....

- PEOPLE ARE BROKEN, HURTING, CONFUSED, DESPERATE, STRIVING FOR SOMETHING
- AND THEY'RE NOT FINDING IT
- PEOPLE ARE CRYING FOR SOMETHING ETERNAL AND MATTERS
- PEOPLE ARE NOT SEARCHING FOR COOLNESS, THEY NEED A SAVIOUR THAT IS REAL.
- THEY NEED SOMETHING THAT IS REAL, SOMEONE THAT HAS THE ANSWER, SOMEONE THAT CAN SET THEM FREE.... AND THAT IS CALLED JESUS!!

AND THAT’S WHY WE NEED....

- TO LOVE LIKE JESUS.... WITH GRACE AND TRUTH,
- AND LEAD WITH JESUS....WITH TRUTH AND GRACE.

**FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**

- *HE PASSIONATELY CONFRONTED HYPOCRITES -- **TRUTH***
- *HE LAVISHLY LOVED AND COMFORTED THE SINNERS -- **GRACE***

- *WHENEVER THE PHARISEES WERE HYPOCRITICAL, HE CALLED THEM BRUTAL VIPERS AND SNAKES -- **TRUTH***
- *THERE WAS AN IMMORAL WOMAN...IM OFFERING YOU LIVING WATER SO YOU'LL NEVER THIRST AGAIN -- **GRACE***
- *WHEN THE HOUSE OF GOD WAS TURNED INTO PLACE OF PROFIT.... HE WAS FURIOUS AND TURNED THE TABLES..... THIS IS MY FATHERS HOUSE, IT WILL NOT BE USED FOR THIS -- **TRUTH***
- *TAX COLLECTORS CRIMINALS...LEAVE YOUR WAY, FOLLOW ME, AND WE WILL CHANGE THE WORLD!*
- *HE LOVED THE OUTCAST, TOUCHED THE LEPERS, BEFRIEND THE PROSTITUTES --- **GRACE.***

THAT IS OUR JESUS!.....  
FULL OF GRACE AND FULL OF TRUTH.

THE BEST STORY IN THE BIBLE TO ILLUSTRATE THIS....

### **THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF ADULTERY (John 8:1-11)**

- THESE RELIGIOUS GUYS DRAGGED THIS WOMAN OUT,
- AND DECIDE WE'RE GONNA STONE HER TO DEATH
- THAT'S WHAT THE LAW SAYS TO DO.
- THAT WAS THE RULE.
- THE GUY..... HE GOT AWAY
- BUT ONLY THE WOMAN.... WHO WAS DRAGGED OUT
- SHE'S PROBABLY BARELY CLOTHED....
- SHE WAS IN LIFE AND DEATH POSITION.
- THESE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE DRAW LINE IN THE SAND.
- THE LINE SAY.....YOU'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE, YOU'RE THE SINNER.
- THEREFORE, WE'RE GONNA STONE YOU!!
- JESUS.....WHAT DO YOU SAY?
- JESUS CROSSED THE LINE.
- HE WENT TO THAT WOMAN.
- AND HE KNELT DOWN IN FRONT OF HER
- HE WROTE ON THE SAND.
- *(WRITING THE SINS OF THE MEN WHO WERE THERE....ONE BY ONE THEY WALKED AWAY)*

### **WHAT DID JESUS DO??**

HE KNEELS DOWN BEFORE THIS BROKEN WOMAN  
HE LOOKS THROUGH HER TEARS, HER SHAME AND GUILT....

**"WHERE ARE YOUR ACCUSERS?" (John 8:10)**

*WHERE ARE THOSE WHO CONDEMNED YOU?*

SHE LOOKS UP AND NOONE'S THERE....

SHE SAYS **"SIR, THERE ARE NONE."** ---- GRACE.

HE COVERED HER WITH GRACE.

BUT GOD DID NOT STOP HERE.

AND THEN HE SAYS *"BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.....DO WHATEVER YOU WANT... JUST DON'T GET CAUGHT.....BE HAPPY..... ENJOY THE GRACE AND MERCY OF GOD."*

NO! ..... WHAT DID HE SAY?

***"GO YOUR WAY.....AND SIN NO MORE." (John 8:11)***---- TRUTH.

NOT BECAUSE TRUTH IS RESTRICTIVE, OR OPPRESSIVE.....

TRUTH IS FREERING, AND LIBERATING!!

*WHERE ARE YOUR ACCUSERS? NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU --- GRACE.*

*GO YOUR WAY, AND SIN NO MORE --- TRUTH.*

WHENEVER RELIGION DREW THE LINE, JESUS CROSSED THE LINE.

WHY??

BECAUSE **THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE.**

THAT'S WHY WE AS JESUS FOLLOWERS, WE DON'T DRAW LINES TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT.

WE CROSS LINES TO BRING PEOPLE IN.

GRACE AND TRUTH.

WE LOVE PEOPLE, WE WELCOME PEOPLE, WE EMBRACE PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW BROKEN HOW LOST..... WITH THE GRACE OF GOD

WE ALSO LOVE AND LEAD THEM WITH THE TRUTH OF GOD!!

TEACHING THEM, EQUIPPING THEM WITH THE TRUTH..... SO THAT WE ARE NOT ROBBED AWAY FROM OUR FULL VICTORY, NOT FALLING SHORT OF THE FULLNESS OF GOD!

DISCIPLES....

LET'S LEARN TO BE LIKE JESUS

FULL OF GRACE, FULL OF TRUTH.

ANY AMEN?!

## **DISCUSSION GUIDELINE**

**WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE FAITHFULLY IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD / CULTURE, WITH FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**

- ***BE LOVING AND RELEVANT, WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE TRUTH.***
- ***BE FIRM AND BOLD IN LIVING / SHARING THE TRUTH, WHILE SHOWING GRACE.***

**IN WHICH ASPECT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN AMPLIFY MORE (THAT YOU'RE LACK OF) IN ORDER TO LIVE AND LEAD LIKE JESUS? (FULL OF TRUTH AND FULL OF GRACE)**