

Theological Jukebox – Cult of Personality GRACERS

Questions for Fellowship Groups Week of July 16-22

Hey Hosts – thanks for faithfully preparing to host your group each week. This week's topic leads to questions that may be a little deeper than usual. Know that you are being prayed for as you prepare and as you lead each week and that Michael and Paul are always available to go deeper for you and your members!

Opening comments – In this mini-series focusing on the Cult of Personality, Michael has been teaching on the paradox of grace and truth. This week was focused on the Gracers.

Say, Michael's first point stated that Grace is what makes the WEAK STRONG
2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Ask, How have you seen God take your weakness and make it strong?

Say, God's power is on display working through our brokenness.

Read 1 Peter 5:10 and give people a chance to share about this phrase, God of all grace will Himself . . .

Say, God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

The second major point - OBEDIENCE doesn't save, GRACE saves. Ephesians 2:1-10

Say, Too many times people will fall into the trap of thinking and believing that they (through doing all the right things) can obtain salvation. NOPE!

Ask, How have you possibly fallen into that trap?

Say, It is true that we are created for good works because of the great grace He has given but we are not saved by our works.

Point 3 - Grace is not CHEAP, it is COSTLY

Michael mentioned Dietrich Bonhoeffer – a German theologian who was instrumental in many ways. He talked about Cheap Grace and how it is a perversion of what God intended.

Read these and give people a chance to respond –

- preaching forgiveness w/o repentance,
- baptism w/o discipline,
- communion w/o confession,
- grace w/o discipleship.

Ask, What is the end result of these untruths? (it is okay to get a little heady here if needed. We want to stretch one another and cause each of us to search scripture more.)

Read Matthew 13:44-46. These verses talk about the costliness and the worth of the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price.

Say, Grace does not accept sin but embraces the gift of freeing you from sin. The truth is you cannot be holy on your own but only through the grace of Christ.

We never outgrow the need for the gospel. The gospel is for sinners both with and without Christ.

Point 4 - Blindspot: Gracers tend to let their FEELINGS define their TRUTH - Jeremiah 17:7-10

Say, The heart is deceitful of all things. People view the heart one of two ways -
-The heart is pure and in need of protection. (**Ask**, Ever hear a parent talk about their newborn being so sweet and innocent? Many parents try to keep bad influences away from their “perfect” child.)

Say -The heart is deceitful and in need of transformation. God says that in Jeremiah that our heart is deceitful. This can be a hard truth to admit, but our heart is deceitful of all things. Read Jeremiah 17:7-10. (You might get some good discussion here around these two ideas of trusting God versus following your heart.)

A reminder to us all - A disciple needs TRUTH AND GRACE because Jesus was FULL OF BOTH. Read John 1:14-16

Prescription for gracers: grow in the reality. that GRACE becomes more and more AMAZING as you grow in TRUTH

Read 2 Peter 3:17-18.

Allow some time for questions and close in prayer affirming the truth of needing both God’s grace and His truth in our lives.