



TRUTH | GRACE

T TRUTH

Even when we tell ourselves we "don't care, the reality is that you were created to care. (1 Peter 4:8)

G GRACE

Even losing battles with those we call family or are in close relationship with is worth fighting for.

T TRUTH

A life of following Jesus is one that says "no" to ourselves, and "yes" to God.

G GRACE

God has made a way by removing all obstacles between us and himself. (2 Cor. 5:18)

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Jesus does not condemn people when they fail, but he did bring with him higher standards of living. With this higher standard comes a deeper grace. The Christian life is one that is built upon an ideal plan God had for our everyday life. The tension of grace and truth is most often felt in the family.





READ EXAMPLES TOGETHER

Re-read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

1. When Paul writes that the "old has gone and the new has come" what do you think he means? (v. 17).
2. Read Ephesians 4:24. What is one way you think we can "put off the old self" for the new kind of life we are promised in Christ?

When we are compelled (or controlled, constrained) by Christ's love for us, we no longer have to muster up inauthentic love for those that are hard to love. The Bible literally says we are supplied with the very love of Jesus for others if we let him have control our hearts (Jn. 13:34).

- Have you ever experienced what it's like to love someone beyond what you are capable of?
- If so, were you surprised by how you were able to love someone in a hard situation without having to force yourself or fake it? Do you attribute that to the love of Jesus in you?



02

DO I HAVE A HIGHER STANDARD FOR RELATIONSHIP THAN GOD DOES?

All throughout the Bible God invited people who didn't deserve it into relationship with him. These weren't just annoying people—but downright bad, rude, violent, and messed-up people.

- When you reflect on relationships where you find it hard to forgive or reach out for relationship, what is the reason for that?
- If you were to admit that you have a higher standard of behavior for your relationships than God has for yours, what might that change?

WHAT DO I DO NOW? | HOMEWORK

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. (Gal. 5:13, NIV)

1. Read this verse several times this week.
2. Pray through it several times as well, making it personal.
3. Ask God to help you soften your heart not just towards those who are hard to love, but towards his heart for you too.