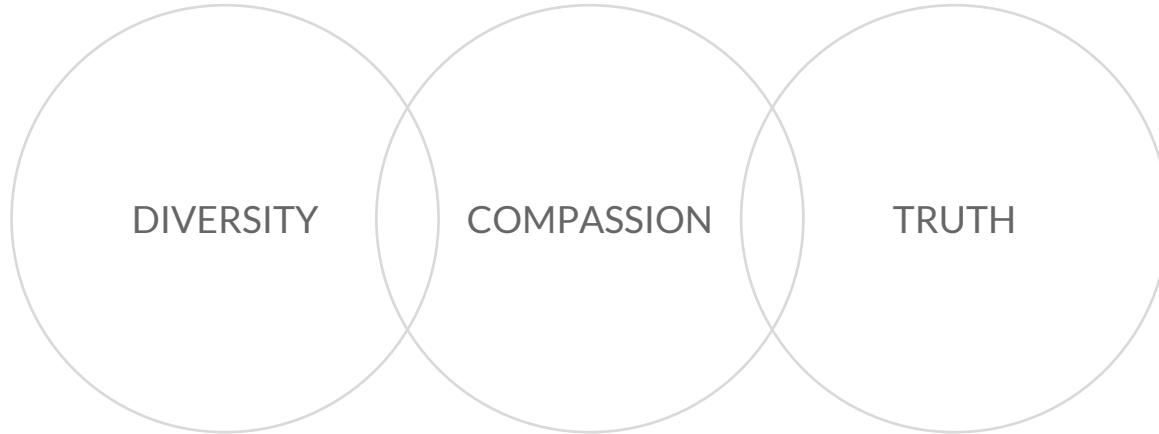


An abstract watercolor background featuring a mix of vibrant green and deep blue hues. The colors are blended and layered, creating a textured, organic feel. There are some white highlights and darker, more saturated areas, giving it a sense of depth and movement.

Transgender

More than Meets the Eye

Three Lenses



We've Not Seen This Day Before

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;

– Acts 13:36

³² Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the time, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command

– 1 Chronicles 12:32

“Had served” from Acts and “had understanding” from Chronicles. These are the gifts each group was equipped with for their specific jobs.

The second set of words is “in his own generation” and “of the times.” They speak of when these men did these things.

Identity Theft

From Daniel: “God is my Judge” to
Belteshazzar: “Lady, protect the king”

From Hananiah: “Yahweh has been gracious” to
Shadrach: “I am fearful of God”

From Mishael: “Who can compare to my God? No one!” to
Meshach: “I am despised, contemptible, and humiliated”

From Azariah: “Yahweh has helped” to
Abednego: “The servant of Nebo”

Good conversations don't begin with proclamations, but rather by meeting people right where they are

These six truths are:

1. Everybody is a human person. *No exceptions.*
2. Every human person is of inestimable worth and value, none more than another. *No exceptions.*
3. Everyone is deeply and passionately loved by God. *No exceptions.*
4. Unfortunately everyone is burdened with a terminal illness, sin. *No exceptions.*
5. All, as children of Adam, are tragically separated from God, but this does not diminish God's boundless love for us. But it does devastatingly hinder our relationship with Him. *All of us, no exceptions.*
6. Therefore, everyone is in desperate need of repentance, healing, and a new life that comes only in surrender and submission to Christ. **NO exceptions.**

You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.

– J.S. Knox

Truth without grace is mean. Grace without truth is meaningless. Truth and grace together are good medicine.

– Chris Hodges

Truth without grace is abusive and grace without truth is mere sentimentalism. The two cannot exist without each other.

– Glenn T. Stanton

Four of the most common reasons why we fail:

1. Fear of the LGBT community
2. Lack of Biblical Understanding
3. Absence of Empathy
4. Closed-door Attitude

Us Versus Them?

Names like:

- They
- Them
- Those
- The others
- Those people
- The other side

Five attitudes to incorporate when engaging the culture:

1. Keep your standards high and your grace deep. (1 Cor. 1:18-20)
2. Accept people without approving of their behavior. (Dan. 1:8)
3. Never let the tone get contentious. (Dan. 2:14)
4. Lead them to truth by identifying with their struggle. (Jude v. 22-23)
5. Paint the picture of what it looks like to come home. (Luke 15:20)

Four perceptions about God, three are incorrect:

1. A Locked Gate.

- It reflects the myth that God cannot – and presumably does not want – to be reached.

2. A Pile of Luggage.

- It perpetuates the myth that God can't possibly want someone who has so much baggage in their lives.

3. An Endless Ladder.

- People in this camp assume they must change first, that they have to work for God's acceptance by proving themselves worthy or "good enough".

4. A Free Gift.

- This reflects who he really is. There's nothing we have to do – nothing we can do – to win his favor or earn his forgiveness.

Five scriptures and model prayers we can pray for the people God has given us to influence:

1. Pray that the Father would draw them to Jesus.
2. Bind the spirit that blinds their minds.
3. Let loose the spirit of adoption (personal relationship with God).
4. Pray that believers will enter into positive relationships with the lost, and pray that we will see opportunities that come across our paths.
5. Release the Spirit of wisdom and revelation on them, so they may know God better.

Friend or Enemy?

A very good rule of thumb is to ask three questions in such relationships:

1. Does this person know I care for them?
2. Do they also know why I disagree with them and they with me?
3. Can we maintain an honest, caring, self-giving relationship based on these realities?

How about we trust the Holy Spirit to convict them of what He wants to convict the of. In the meantime we'll do our best to faithfully teach them the Word and love them the best we can.

– Chuck Smith

In a way it really is this simple for all churches:

1. Welcome all who want to come.
2. Faithfully and lovingly teach the whole Word of God without compromise.
3. Let the Holy Spirit do His work and you try to cooperate with His leading.

Be Faithful

Be Loving

Be Truthful

Be Wise

Be Informed

Be Strong

Be Influential

Acceptance Without Approval

- We can be accepting without approving.
- We can be loving without applauding.
- We can be compassionate without commending.

- The Daniel Dilemma – Chris Hodges
- Good Faith – David Kinnaman + Gabe Lyons
- Loving My (LGBT) Neighbor – Glenn Stanton
- Messy Grace – Caleb Kaltenbach
- When Harry Became Sally – Ryan T. Anderson
- Qideas.org