

What do these figures share in common?



The man upstairs



Father time



Uncle Sam



Santa Claus

**Fictitious old men with beards!**

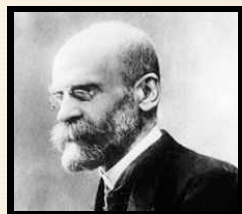


**It looks like a conference “break out” room at the Marriott.**



“Genesis tells us that God created man in His image. History suggests that man has been trying to return the favor ever sense.”

“The idea of god was nothing more than a symbolic representation of the collective values of the society that worships (itself through) him, she, or it.”



Emile Durkheim  
1858-1917

**Does man create God in his own image?**

- The Pharisees saw God as ceremonially washing Himself according to the LAW.
- Some people see God as a chaplain for “the American dream.”
- Others see God as a political revolutionary calling for a socialist state.
- **As we read this gospel, the Holy Spirit wants us to see Jesus as God’s image not as the image of our worldly culture.**



### **The Incarnation**

*John 1*

“14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld **His glory**, glory as of the only begotten from the Father,”

**The “glory” of an object or person is:**  
that which a person or object cannot lose without losing its unique identity.

**The Glory of God**  
is the soul or unique essence of God.

**The Word (Logos)**  
is the revelation of God’s Glory.



### Hebrews 1

"<sup>1</sup> God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. <sup>3</sup> And **He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature**, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; <sup>4</sup> having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee?" And again, "I will be a Father to Him and He shall be a Son to Me?" <sup>6</sup> And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him." . . . <sup>8</sup> But of the Son He says, "**Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.**"

### What is the glory of God?

love wisdom mercy  
justice grace ? tradition truth  
holiness beauty law good works  
righteousness religion gentleness  
peace humility mercy judgment  
absolutes Spirit freedom



God is love, full of grace and truth

### The Incarnation

#### John 1

"<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld **His glory**, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. . . <sup>16</sup> For of His fulness we have all received, and **grace upon grace**. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has **explained** Him."

### "grace upon grace"

#### 2 Corinthians 3

"<sup>7</sup> But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, <sup>8</sup> how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? <sup>9</sup> For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. <sup>10</sup> For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory on account of the glory that surpasses it. <sup>11</sup> For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory."

### THE GOSPEL STORY

The Epistles

The Gospels

The Old Testament

EXPLANATION  
Grace

EVENTS  
Grace

FOUNDATION  
Grace

GRACE  
is the Love of God  
exhibited.

TRUTH  
is the Love of God  
explained.

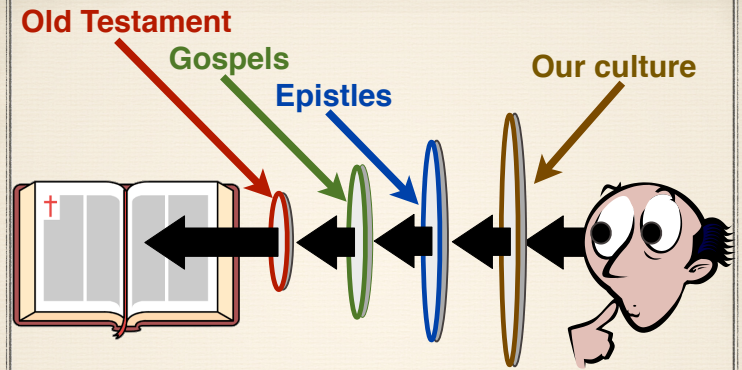


*Paul opens letters with:*  
“**GRACE** and Peace be unto you.”

*Paul closes letters with:*  
“**GRACE** be with you all.”

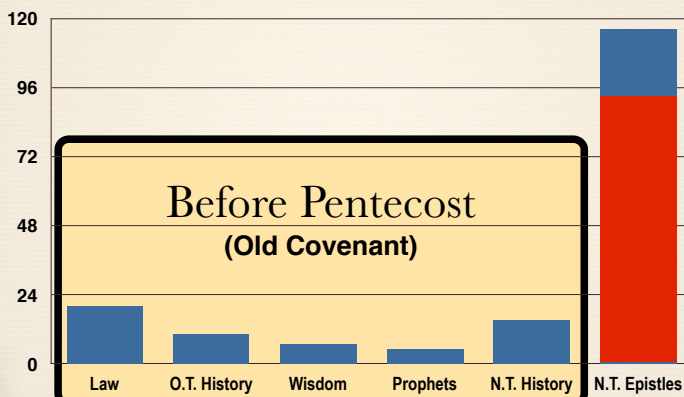
“Full of **GRACE** and  
Truth, Peace, Love, etc.”

*Grace always comes first.*



We interpret the  
Scriptures through lenses.

Distribution of references to the word “grace”  
in the various divisions of the Scripture



*The Glory of God  
is revealed in Jesus  
as Grace and Truth together.*

“full of grace and truth.”

- *The Incarnate LOGOS is showing and telling.*
- *The Word of the Cross is an event explained.*
- *The Christian faith is encounter and doctrine.*
- *The Church is to speak the truth in love.*

## *The Word of the Cross*

Some tragedies  
are victories  
in disguise.



- **Without grace** the crucifixion has no redemptive purpose.
- **Without truth** the crucifixion remains a misunderstood, tragedy of history.

## *Grace without Truth can be:*

- **Cheap** - costing nothing.
- **Powerless** - accomplishing little.
- **Shallow** - without boundaries.

## *Truth without Grace can be:*

- **Cruel** - peddling abusive shame.
- **Legalistic** - rules & control driven.
- **Superficial** - appearance focused.



*Ephesians 4:29*

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

- **NOT** - *“If you can’t say anything nice don’t say anything at all.”*
- **BUT** - *If you are not a part of the problem or the solution, shut up.*
- **AND** - *When you speak - graciously edify.*

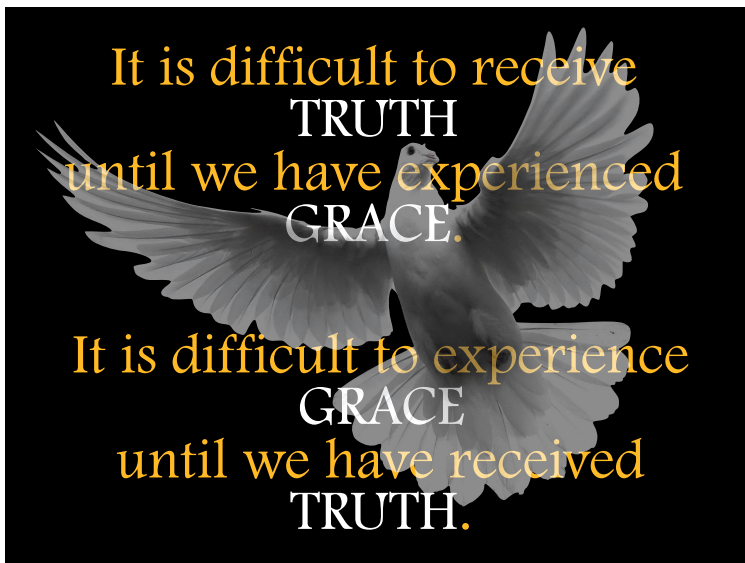
## Temptation is usually a battle over grace and truth.

Satan tempts us to believe that personal fulfillment comes from either perfection or permissiveness.

The ministry of the Spirit is to “lead us into all the truth” of the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

*John 15:26*

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.”



## Lies follow a spectrum Deception starts with Delusion



*Matthew 6:22*

“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.”

## Some common lies we tell ourselves -

- God’s grace is conditioned upon our ability to manage life with good works.
- We can and should reform this fallen imperfect world starting with ourselves.
- Whining about the past and worrying about the future shows that we care.
- Who we are and what we do does not really make a difference.

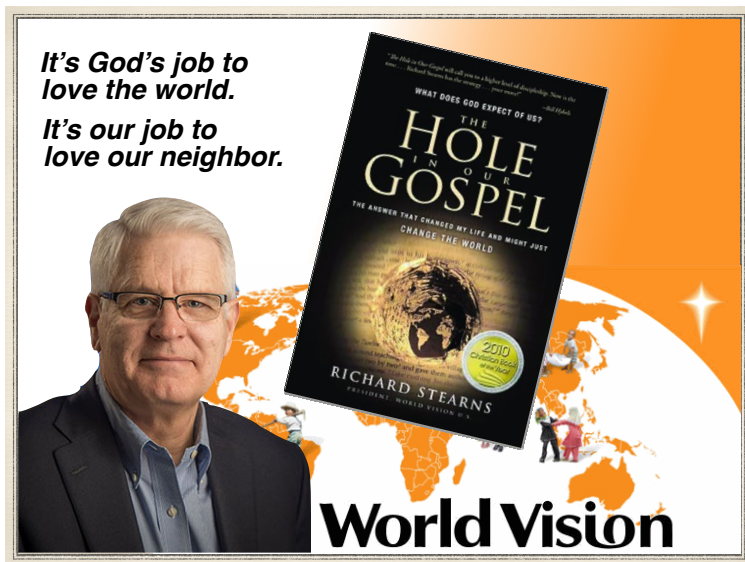
## A list of all the Scriptures that call us to whine and worry:

### No Results Found

Sorry, no matches were found. Modify your search criteria and try again.

**Press the Repent button in your heart.**





## ***Disciples of Jesus must:***

- **Be champions of God's glory** - in what we embrace, proclaim, display.

*This means that we must -*

- **Be champions of grace** - both for us, in us, and through us to others.
- **Be champions of truth** - both in what we say to ourselves and what we say about and to others.

## ***2 Corinthians 13:14***

“The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”