

Culture Codes: Grace Does Not Equal Compromise

Luke 7:36-50 & Matthew 7:1-14

Introduction:

Over the course of five weeks, Pastor Kevin is taking the church through a series called “Culture Codes.” The purpose of this series is to look at the attitudes and practices that we should be demonstrating to one another and in our spheres of influence. Each week we will look at a passage of Scripture, discuss the content, and then seek ways that it applies to our lives. This is merely a discussion guide that is meant to help you move the conversation forward. Life Group members are welcomed to utilize resources for taking the discussion deeper. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for these passages, you can find the content on pages 1565 (*Luke*) and 1464-1465 (*Matthew*). - JF

Questions:

Take a moment to recall any memories or experiences where you encountered people who were full of grace but did not contain truth. What did that experience look like? Even though grace was prevalent, why might it have felt awkward or “off” because there was no truth? Now consider the opposite – when did you experience a time where truth was present but there was little to no grace involved? What impact did that make on you? What do you think of the phrase “Grace does not equal compromise.”? Is this a helpful phrase for you? Why or why not? What does this phrase help communicate about God, the gospel, and the Christian life?

Read Luke 7:36-50. Where do we find ourselves at this point in Luke’s gospel? What has happened previously? What is Jesus doing? Are any of the disciples involved? If so, what are they doing? How would you paraphrase the story that we just read?

What do all of the parties (Luke, the woman, Simon, and Jesus) agree on about this woman? What sort of person was this woman (*what do we know and what do we speculate?*)? What was Jesus’ purpose in telling the parable in verses 41-43? Why do you think Jesus chose to share this parable rather than clearly call Simon out for not loving this woman well enough? What sort of person was Simon? What does Jesus see in the woman that Simon does not see? How does that affect Jesus’ actions toward her? What sort of Savior is Jesus?

Read Matthew 7:1-14. What is important to know about these verses in Matthew 7? (*These teachings are a part of the Sermon on the Mount*) How does Matthew 7:1-14 find relation to the previous story we discussed in Luke 7 and our concept that grace does not equal compromise? How is judging related to speaking truth and being gracious? Why is it significant that Jesus teaches people that they must ask, seek, and knock for the things that they need on the heels of a section regarding judgment of others? In fact, what is Jesus saying people need in this section? How have you been asking, seeking, and knocking for the things that you need lately? How might the group provide encouragement or pray for you in these areas? The final section of our reading ends with Jesus telling His hearers to do unto others as they would want others to do for them. Given our discussion regarding grace and truth, how does this fit together with our theme for the day?

Take a moment to reflect and consider where you have struggled to balance truth and grace in your life. Share with the group how you believe you have done at balancing truth and grace in your relationships with others. Now consider what others might say about you in terms of balancing grace and truth. Is there a time in which the grace you gave also led you to compromise truth? Is there a time in which you held the line on truth, were uncompromising, but you lacked the grace the Jesus calls us to? Share that story and what you learned from that experience?

Is there anything from Pastor Kevin’s sermon that you would like to discuss? Is there anything from our reading of our passages today that you would like to discuss?

Conclusion:

As a group, conclude by brainstorming ways how we can practice grace without compromise and help one another live into this culture code for the glory of God and the good of those around us. After brainstorming, spend time praying together.