

IV

Gracious
S p a c e

One Truth
7.7 Billion Perspectives

Review

Part 1 - Breaking Barriers Between Us

- The Church has been putting up needless barriers for literally thousands of years.
- The first step in fostering gracious space is to recognize the barriers we put up that limit authentic connection.

Part 2 - Bear (put up) With One Another

- “Bear with each other”, “make allowance for each other’s faults,” “put up with” and “be tolerant with one another.”
- Put on the “clothes” of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, & love for bearing with others.

Part 3 - A Place for CHE

- Curiosity - inquisitive interest in others' concerns
- Humility - understanding the proper level of ones significance
- Empathy - being sensitive to the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of another
- Unhealthy conversations and experiences can quickly escalate when we neglect curiosity, humility, and empathy
- Conflicts can keep from escalating when just one side practices CHE
- Church conflict and “regular life” need CHE in the same way

Taking some time to “be still” and recognize God is with you,
around you, before you, and after you...
positions your heart and mind to receive the
wisdom and discernment of the Spirit.

Now is the time to try and foster a teachable spirit,
to be open to new learning,
and what the Spirit has to say to you right now, in this moment.
Try some intentional breathing or the Psalm meditation online.
Sense your body relaxing and becoming present and ready
to hear God speak.

RESOURCE: [Presence of God Meditation](#)

Continue now, giving space for yourself and others
to journey into the Father’s Words,
the Spirit’s Presence,
and the love, grace, and passion of the Son.

Is there such thing as ultimate truth?

Can any one person claim to know ultimate truth?

Have you ever been 100% positive about something,
only to find out later you were wrong?

Take a few minutes to reflect and discuss what the idea of
“perspective” has to do with truth.

If you are in a group,
see if you can find three movies that every person agrees were
great movies.

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At KCC, we believe that we are called to participate with God in restoring His creation to what it was meant to be. In carrying out this mission, our own individual perspectives on Scripture may affect what this mission looks like.

What are some beliefs based on the Bible that the church may have held in the past, but that most Christians don't agree with anymore?

Can you think of any beliefs about what the Bible teaches that has caused church division?

Do you think it would be realistic for all Christians everywhere to agree on everything the Bible teaches?

Scripture:

Read Matthew 5:17-48

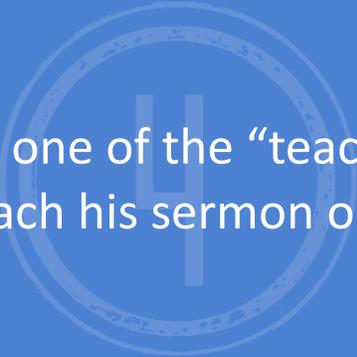
If your in a group, you may wish to condense the scripture by reading only the first two verses in each section (it'll still be effective).

Jesus is preaching his famous Sermon on the Mount.

What might be controversial about his teachings for the Jews at that time?

What is the “Law or the Prophets” that Jesus is referring to in verse 17?

If Jesus says he has not come to change even one stroke, of one letter, of the “Law” that Israel lives by, what exactly is he doing in his sermon?



Imagine you were one of the “teachers of the Law” listening to Jesus preach his sermon on the mountainside.

What would you be thinking and feeling about this young rabbi named Jesus from the tiny village of Nazareth?

What would be scary about what Jesus was teaching?

Do you have any more thoughts on how his teaching could have been controversial?

Read verse 43 again.

Who would have said,
‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy’?

How might this be an *extra* good example of missing the point of the Law?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching a new way to follow the Law, the way that was intended from the beginning.

But it was different and challenged the *traditional* way.

Often disagreements happen in churches today because of a new perspective on a traditional belief or way of doing things.

Also, a person's perspective can change what they see as "true".

Back in 2015, a mom texted a picture, to her soon-to-be-wed daughter, of a dress she wanted to wear to the wedding.

This picture (on the next page) became an internet sensation.

Why?

What colour is the dress?

Are you sure?

What is *clear* and *simple* and *true* for some people, about this dress, may not be the same for others.

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Scripture:

Read these verses in multiple translations

Hebrew 13:7-8

What can we learn from the fact that Jesus, his way,
and his truth, **does not change**?

What *does* change?

RESOURCE: [How to Read the Bible \(8mins\)](#)

The final questions on the next page may not have clear answers. It is REALLY important to take time to ponder and/or discuss them humbly and prayerfully.

It may be a good idea to journal your answers or think about them over the course of a few days.

How has my own upbringing influenced the way I read the Bible?

How does the culture I live in affect my reading of the Bible,
what may be “lost in translation”?

What about the Bible have I always just believed,
not because I read it first, but because I was taught it first?

Are there any beliefs about Christianity
that have changed for me over the years?

Do I read the Bible to support my beliefs,
or discover what to believe?

What do I personally have at stake when I read the Bible?

What’s scary about changing things that I believe
about the Bible?



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

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