

Sermon Notes

May 3, 2009

Grace-Based Theology

Series: Seeing Gray

- A. (summary) At least 3 Problematic Areas with Black and White thinking:
1. Tend to _____ issues that call for faith
 2. Tend to be _____
 3. Tend to embody _____ and conflict
- all seem to go against Jesus' ethic of _____ and grace
- a. If you truly love one another, it is enough
 - b. Jesus always circled back to Love
 - c. almost without exception, "what is right" boils down to "what is the most loving thing to do?"
- B. Mt 5:17, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law. I have not come to abolish, but rather to _____."
1. The purpose of the Law is *not* to tell us what to do or not to do, rather it is to help us love one another better
 2. No one, and nothing, can help you or me love one another better than Christ
- C. Love trumps Black and White Law, because the Law was created to help us love; and, Jesus *fulfilled* that Law
- D. Our calling is not to blindly follow the rules of the Jewish parts of the Bible or the Bible in general, but to follow _____
1. Christ's _____ was to always put love and grace first, as that is the *purpose* of the Law, it is the reason God gave us the Law, to help us be more loving people
 2. If not, then Leviticus 21:18-21 (and countless other "clear" scriptures) would be Black and White Truth that we must follow! - "If you have a rebellious child who does not obey you when you discipline him. Then all the men of your town should stone him to death."
 - a. other biblical examples? Discriminating against women, supporting slavery, stoning women for adultery, only 1 reason for divorce, etc etc etc.
- E. If you and I approach these issues with grace, seeing them in terms of Gray (with a little compassion, humility, and love), what inevitably starts happening is that the Law begins to be fulfilled in us too. We start becoming better people, more loving and gracious people who are willing to bend a little if it means loving someone as Christ loved us. We start becoming more and more like Christ himself.
- And THAT is the point.

Other Notes:

A1. oversimplify 2. judgmental 3. polarize a. love B. fulfill D. Christ 1. example