



the credibility gap

WEEK 3 - Harmful Theology vs. Redemptive Faith

OVERVIEW

So much of modern evangelicalism has been shaped by fundamentalist theologies developed in the last few centuries. Escapist eschatology, systems of belief which neglect large swaths of Scripture, and theologies of a cruel, ruthless, judgmental God have manifested themselves in Christian behaviors at odds with God's clear desires for the Church. If we want to reach our friends and neighbors with the truly good news of Jesus' salvation, we must be willing to re-evaluate our assumptions about the kind of redemptive love meant to animate our mission and spiritual family.

God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think being confident in the truth of our theological position is so important? Discuss some examples of harmful theological positions you've heard. Would you feel confident countering them? Why or why not?
2. What is your reaction to the two concerns Tim mentioned - "inappropriate view of the Bible" and "theologies related to end times"?
3. Tim states that "the Bible at its core, is God's self-revelation". Does this intimidate you or inspire you to dig deeper and learn more about it? Explain.
4. When we have incorrect conclusions about scripture, how can we make sure they are set right?
5. John 3:17 says that *God sent his son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him*. Why do you think this is such a powerful verse?
6. Read James 1:2-5. Knowing that the word, "troubles" can be translated as "to question someone's integrity or virtue" and the word, "endurance", can be translated as "unmoved from your purpose", how is this an encouragement to us when people are questioning the credibility of our faith?
7. What three ways does Tim suggest we examine to ensure we're ready to help close the credibility gap?

RESOURCES

gracechurch.us