

CATALYST

<http://adamsblvd.org/catalyst-class/>

GOD

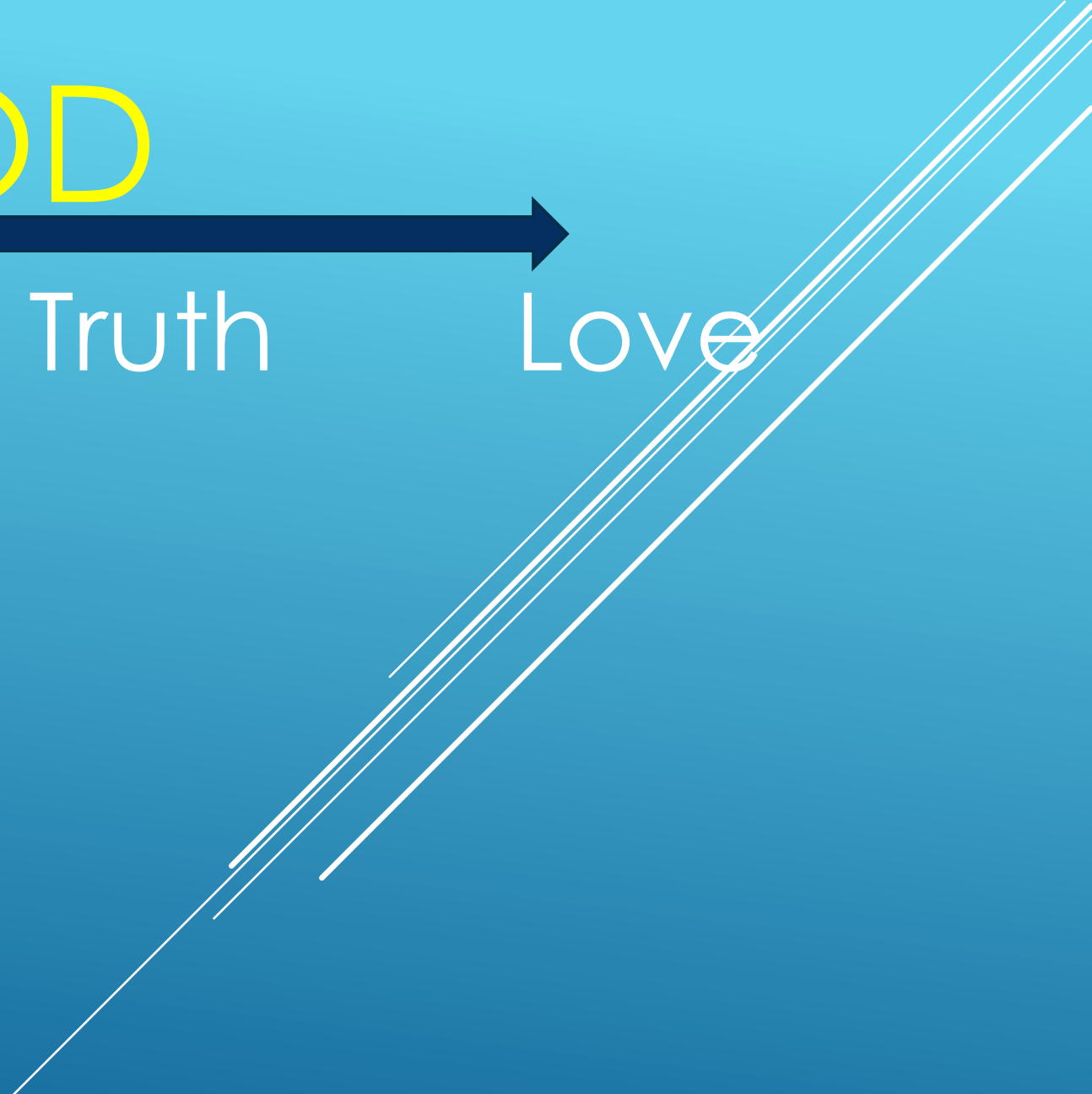


Fears

Lies

Truth

Love



GOD



Fears

Lies

Truth

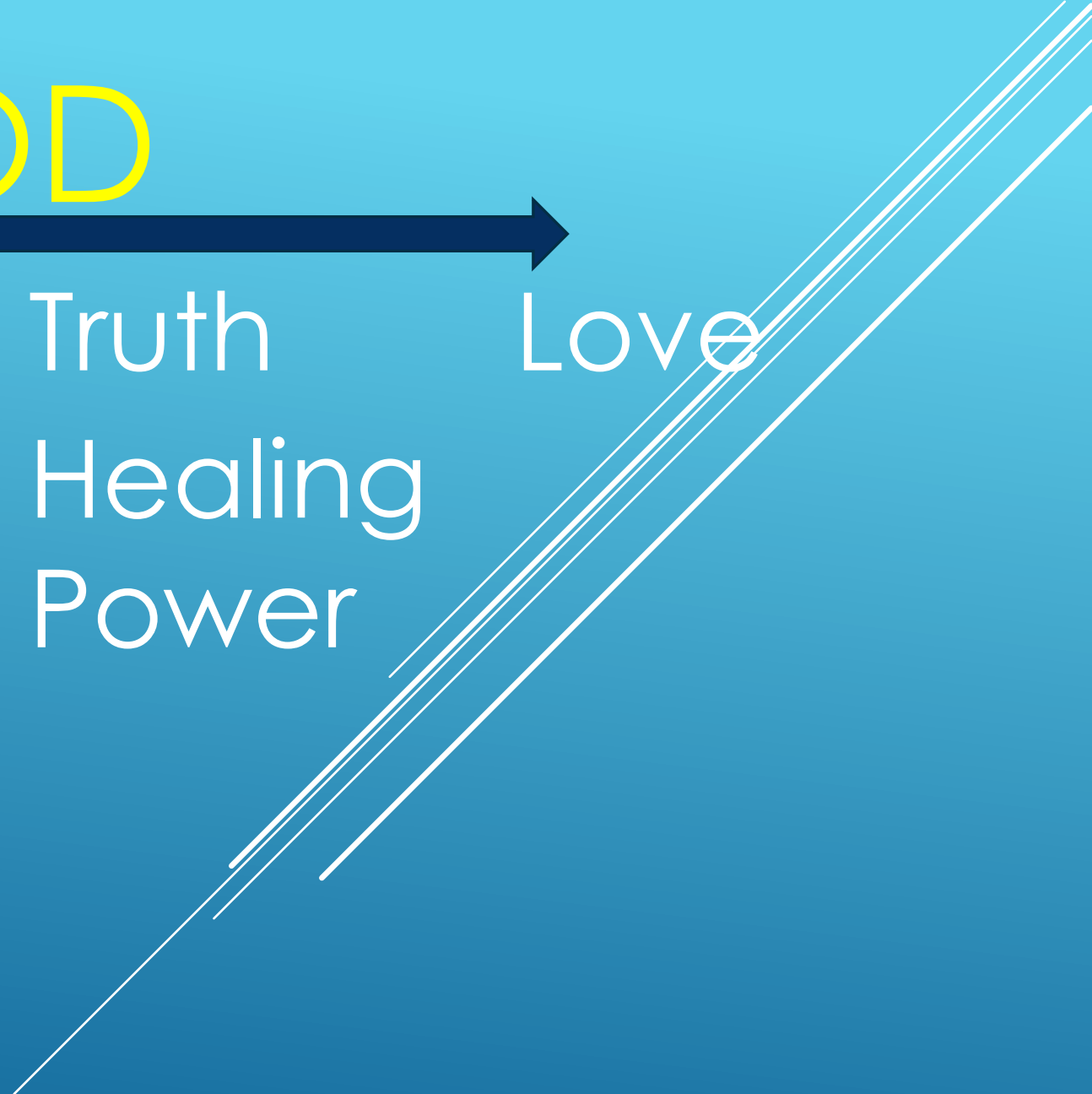
Love

Hurt

Healing

Weak

Power



GOD

Fears

Lies

Truth

Love

Hurt

Healing

Weak

Power

Church

GOD



Fears

Lies

Truth

Love

Hurt

Healing

Weak

Power

Church



Discuss: What is a lie that God has dispelled?
How did it change your life?

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

2 Cor 10:5

“take every thought captive”

Joshua 1:9

Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Between us...
...and them

A series of several parallel white lines of varying thicknesses, slanted diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right, crossing the text.

Us and them: Friends or adversaries?

Stick to small talk to
avoid divisiveness

Avoid religion and politics

Friends or adversaries?

Depends on who picks the topic –

Them?

Us?

The News?

Friends or adversaries?

Depends on who picks the topic –

Them?

Us?

The News?

-Divisive

Friends or adversaries?

Depends on who picks the topic –

Them?

Us?

The News?

-Divisive

Jesus?

- Friends

Jesus

- Friends

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[1] Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, [2] “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, [3] so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. [4] They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. [5] They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, [6] and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues [7] and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. [8] But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. [9] And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. [10] Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. [11] The greatest among you shall be your servant. [12] Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

- love the praise and acceptance of the crowds more than God

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[13] “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. [15] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

- **More interested in being right than in exploring the truth.**

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[16] “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ [17] You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? [18] And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ [19] You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? [20] So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. [21] And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. [22] And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

- use the truth to deceive

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[23] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. [24] You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

- Major in the Minors, really good at doing the unimportant and awful at the important things.

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[25] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. [26] You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

- Prioritize the appearance and symbolism over substance.

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[27] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. [28] So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

- **Care more about outward appearances than inward issues.**

Jesus on Religion

Matthew 23

[29] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, [30] saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ [31] Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. [32] Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. [33] You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? [34] Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, [35] so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. [36] Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

- More interested in status quo and traditionalism than in participating in what God is doing.

Jesus on Religion

It's surprisingly easy to find common ground on the negative aspects of religion.

Religions have a tendency to develop certain kinds of evil. Jesus rejects those, our audience rejects those and we should reject those aspects of evil too.

Jesus on Religion

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 1:27

Do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

Zechariah 7:10

Jesus on Religion

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 1:27

Do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart."

Zechariah 7:10

Isaiah 1:17

Psalms 146:9

Psalms 68:5

Deuteronomy 10:18

Malachi 3:5

Jesus on Religion

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Exodus 22:22

Deuteronomy 27:19

Jeremiah 22:3

Deuteronomy 24:17

Jeremiah 49:11

Ezekiel 22:7

Isaiah 1:23

Psalm 82:3

Ezekiel 22:29

Jeremiah 7:6

Psalm 10:14

Deuteronomy 14:29

Exodus 23:9

Exodus 22:22-24

Jeremiah 5:28

the widows, the orphans, the immigrants

O people, the LORD has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Jesus on Religion

Care for the poor: the widows, the orphans, the immigrants

Do Justice, love mercy, walk humbly

I'm not trying to convert anyone to my position. –that's contentious, and Jesus called out the Pharisees for it.

I want to be on Jesus' page. His position makes sense!

Jesus on Religion

If God is for us who can be against us?

When following Jesus who is most likely to persecute you?

Them – someone from another religion?

Jesus on Religion

If God is for us who can be against us?

When following Jesus who is most likely to persecute you?

Them – someone from another religion? **Rarely**

Most often persecution comes from within – usually religious people.

Jesus on Religion

Act 14:19-20

Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead.

But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

Jesus on Religion

Paul - Jews

Stephen – Jews

John Wycliffe – the medieval church

Modern Muslim & Hindus that decide to follow Jesus

Jesus himself - Jews

Followers of Jesus are most likely to be persecuted by people **from their own religious** background.

Jesus on Religion

All three time Jesus let his **angry** fly was at religious people who were standing in the way of others coming to God.

Pharisees – Opposed healing on the Sabbath

Sadducees – Temple profits over people's devotion

His own Disciples – holding back children

Jesus on Religion

It is hard to recognize Pharisees when they stare at us in the mirror.

Walk humbly

Be aware that your audience may already be on the same page with Jesus, at least on some issues.

They may have valuable insights to teach you.

with God

Let Jesus lead

CATALYST

<http://adamsblvd.org/catalyst-class/>