



ATMOSPHERE OF ACCEPTANCE

A Haven of Hospitality

Last Week's Core Value: **"We are Biblically Based"**

We believe that practical, relevant teaching is the catalyst for transformation in individual's lives. Scripture is inspired by God, completely accurate and our authority regarding Christian beliefs and the guide for Christian living.

Today's Core Value: **"Atmosphere of Acceptance"**

*We believe all people matter to God and ought to matter to the church. We want **everyone** to experience God's grace and love.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Heart & Soul

Read the following passage out loud.

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe^[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,"

Acts 2:42-46, ESV

What's the difference between living from your heart (or head!) and your soul, which is who you are? How have you experienced God touching and gladdening your soul?

2. People

THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO HELP US

- **NAVIGATE OBSTACLES AND TEMPTATIONS.**

On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bozez, and the other Seneh. 1 Samuel 14:4

- **OVERCOME WAVERING FAITH.**

What people are in your life? Do they encourage you to make wise choices and strengthen your faith? (Hint: being in your group is a great start to having the right people around you!)

How has a community of faith – whether one person, a few or many – helped you when your faith wavered?

3. Love

We get to love everyone, not just tolerate them.

Jesus modeled this way forward:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14, emphasis added)

Three verses later the same idea:

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17, emphasis added)

Jesus did not come to strike a balance between grace and truth. He brought the full measure of both. Andy Stanley

Living in the tension of truth and grace creates a glorious mess but this kind of church, our church, runs towards the messes.

What does it mean to you to run towards messes? Have you seen this lived out?

How do you live in grace and truth? Which one is easier for you to lean towards?

How was this lived out in your childhood family – more truth? More grace? Or a measure of each?

How can your community of faith help you live in the tension of both truth and grace?