

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

The definition of heresy I really like is “heresy is truth out of balance.” It is not a complete untruth or a lie. It is using truth and distorting it by ignoring other truth that clarifies and keeps it in balance.

For example, have you ever heard someone say, “Well, I have to tell the truth,” after they have said something that was mean spirited and hurtful? Now it is true that we are to tell the truth. Ephesians 4:25 instructs us to “put off falsehood and speak truthfully.” But it is also true that we are to speak only “what is helpful for building others up according to their needs” (Ephesians 4:29), and in a way that is “always full of grace, seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6). That is the whole truth in balance.

Another example is the phrase “You must learn to forgive yourself.” This is pure psycho-babel. The truth is we need forgiveness. But the lie is, it is about ourselves doing the forgiving. The truth is that if we accept the complete and perfect forgiveness of Jesus Christ through his atoning sacrifice, there is nothing left to forgive (Psalm 103:12). All guilt is gone, not to be remembered anymore. The real issue is that we do not accept the full forgiveness that we have in Christ. Forgiveness is about resting in Christ’s forgiveness, not our trying to improve on or complete what he has already done for us.

A third phrase that is commonly used is that “God accepts me *as I am*.” The truth is that God does accept us, not *as I am*, but *where I am*. The idea that God accepts me *as I am* gives rise to the idea that I’m okay and really don’t have to change. But the whole truth is that God accepts us *where I am as a sinner* through the redemptive act of Jesus Christ. So no matter how good or how bad we are, God cannot accept us except through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:7-14 declares to us that we are accepted only through the forgiveness offered through Christ for the purpose that we might be made holy and blameless in God sight.

Friend, God will accept you no matter what condition your life is in right now so that he might change your life to be pleasing to him—a holy, righteous and healed life. Will you let him?

For comments, concerns or questions call 608-488-7733