



INTRODUCTION:

Our approach to cultural engagement is informed by:

- Something Jesus _____.
- Something said _____ Jesus.
- Something Jesus said _____ saying it.
- Something Jesus _____ say.

I. SOMETHING SAID ABOUT JESUS: HE _____ GRACE AND TRUTH.

*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.***

*For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest **relationship** with the Father, has made him known.*

John 1:14, 17-18 NIV

A. Truth

B. Grace

C. The grace/truth tension requires that we present the _____ while embracing what's _____.



III. SOMETHING JESUS DIDN'T SAY: NEVER GIVE UP _____ UNNECESSARILY.

One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the **good news**, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. "Tell us by what **authority** you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this **authority**?"

He replied, "I will also ask you a question. Tell me: John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet."

So they answered, "We don't know where it was from."

Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Luke 20:1–8 NIV

A. Never make a point at the expense of making

a _____.

B. Think twice before answering a question that has the potential to burn a bridge or close a door.

IV. SOMETHING JESUS ACTUALLY SAID: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your **enemies** and pray for those who **persecute** you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even **pagans** do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:43–48 NIV

A. What groups traditionally push back against a local church?

B. What groups are pushing back against your local church?

C. Illustrations:

D. Objection: But didn't Jesus say we should be concerned about people speaking well of us?

"In the same way, let your light shine before **others**, that they may **see** your good **deeds** and glorify your Father in heaven?"

Matthew 5:16 NIV



V. NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR CHURCH

1. Clarify the win organizationally and departmentally.
2. Take a fresh look at current policies.
3. Resist the temptation to create new policies.
4. Think twice about using weekend services to address complicated or divisive cultural issues.
5. Teach your leaders to distinguish between ministry and theology.
6. Brainstorm ways to love your actual and potential enemies.

CONCLUSION:

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