



As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.  
~ Jesus (John 20:21, ESV)

## Part 2: Questioning Grace

### INTRODUCTION – Three Kinds of Questions

Level 1: Questions that help you learn about your partner's beliefs.

Level 2: Questions that help your partner discover/express their reasons.

Level 3: Questions that help you communicate your own beliefs.

Matthew 9:4; 16:13-16; 17:25; 18:12; 21:23-32; 22:20, 41-46; Luke 7:40-44;  
10:25-37; 14:1-6; John 18:22-23

### DINE IN – The “Other Way” to Heaven?

Luke 10:25-37

Matthew 19:17;

Leviticus 18:5; Leviticus 18:5; Nehemiah 9:29; Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21; Genesis 4:7

- Premise 1: Being good leads to eternal life.
- Premise 2: Jesus didn't come to help (those who think they are) “good” people.
- Therefore: Christ's message of grace is for people who have been humbled by their own struggles and failures.

Genesis 6:9 & Job 1:1; Romans 2:6-16 VS Romans 3:10-12, 23

### TAKE OUT #1 – Leaving Judgment Up to God

We are not to try to separate wheat and weeds, but to let God be the judge.

Matthew 13:28-30

### TAKE OUT #2 – Letting the Good News Be Good

In evangelism it is never our responsibility to make people who think they are good admit they are really bad. Like Jesus, we don't call the righteous but the sinners to repent.

Matthew 9:11-13; Hosea 6:6

### TAKE OUT #3 – Putting a Pebble in Their Shoe

Not every conversation about eternal life needs to be about crossing the line of faith. Our goal should be to help people take the next step, to plant a seed, to put a pebble in their shoe.

1 Corinthians 3:6

### TAKE OUT #4 – Rejecting Religion and Embracing Grace

I stand with the Apostle Paul, who realized that all his good deeds and religious works were not good enough to assure him of salvation and threw it all away in order to rely on the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Are you with me?

Philippians 3:2-9; Titus 3:3-7

### CONCLUSION – How Good Are You?

God will repay everyone according to what they have done.

~ Romans 2:6, TNIV

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### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

#### Warming Up...

1. Review Sunday's message and notes. What most puzzles, bothers, or inspires you?

#### Look to the Book...

2. Read **Philippians 3:1-11**. A) Talk about what verse or idea stands out to you the most. B) Notice the undertones of hostility between Paul's new faith and his religious heritage (e.g., verses 2-3). How can we champion the gospel of grace without fueling any anti-Jewish sentiments that may be hiding inside the souls of new converts? C) How might the cause of the gospel have suffered if Paul had not challenged the religionists of his day? D) How could the cause of the gospel suffer if we do not challenge religionists within our ranks today? E) Paul's story is a reflection of the story of Christ. Compare this passage with **Philippians 2:5-11**. His life is cruciform. Could you tell your own story in a cruciform way? Why or why not? F) Paul's great passion was to “know” Christ. How do you experience this relationship? What are some practical ways you engage in a relationship with someone who is, on one level, invisible and silent?
3. Read **Titus 3:3-8**. A) Talk about what verse or idea stands out to you the most. B) Paul's self-description in **verse 3** seems strikingly different than in **Philippians 3**. How are both possible? C) According to **verses 1, 8, and 14**, what is the relationship between our salvation and good deeds?

#### So What?...

4. According to **Titus 3:4**, Jesus is the visible expression of God's love and grace. Take time to meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus. How he loved, lived, and died. Talk about your favourite stories or teachings. Then talk about how keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus can keep our faith in God on a right course.
5. One of the best ways to *initiate* an evangelistic conversation is to begin asking questions about someone's beliefs. Start by learning. Share your faith when appropriate. Can you think of someone in your life now that you could begin to learn from and, eventually, share with? Talk about them, pray for them, and commit.

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Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)