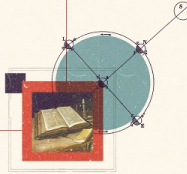




grace & truth.



Grace & Truth Week 7: John 5

In the passage we considered this week we studied a controversy that erupted between Jesus and the religious leaders of his day. We learned several important contrasts between Jesus and empty religion.

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you in the sermon this week?
- In the message it was noted that in addition to demonstrating his compassion and grace to the lame man, Jesus was also showing disregard for the manmade traditions of the Jews. What are some examples of manmade religious rules, traditions, etc. in our day that confuse or obscure the true message of Jesus?
- Which of the five aspects of empty religion do think you may have a tendency or proclivity to fall into at times?
 - **Empty religion protects manmade tradition at the expense of compassion for people**
 - Jesus ignores manmade tradition and prioritizes compassion for people
 - **Religion says: "Obey the rules to get acceptance"**
 - Jesus says: "having received God's mercy and grace, obey the Lord"
 - **Empty religion values external ritual over internal love for God**
 - Jesus says love for God is foundational to Christianity
 - **Empty religion values Bible knowledge as an end in itself**
 - Jesus values Bible knowledge as a means to knowing Jesus
 - **Empty religion looks for praise horizontally**
 - Jesus teaches us to seek the praise from above
- Which of the five contrasting aspects of Jesus' approach do you find most insightful and why?
- How does love for God in our heart transform our approach to the Christian life? Why is lack of love for God in our heart so dangerous?