



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



Church Connection December 2018

Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-5, 9, 14

We recommend:

A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World, John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle, Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2017.

The TRUTH of Christmas

“Politician involved in scandal.” “Prominent citizen caught in prostitution ring.” “Innocent man killed in deadly fight.” “Infant left to die in the cold.” “Mother sells daughter for drugs.” “Man embezzles to pay gambling debts.”

Do those headlines sound familiar to you? They'd fit the front page of any major newspaper today, but this was also life in the Roman Empire at the time of Christ's birth. This was the world into which the Lord chose to incarnate Himself.

Why? Because, Jesus said, "...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Mark 2:17) That time of horrible evil and debauchery was the "fulness of time," the exactly right time for the Lord of the universe to come to earth in the humble, vulnerable form of a peasant infant.

What kind of change did Christ come to work on earth? "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17) "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom. 12:2) This is the kind of change that can truly make America great again. A new creation and renewed minds! That is the message of Christ's birth—the new Adam, the new creation, the new covenant between God and redeemed man, a new person. Then as now it was both a revolutionary and a redemptive message.



Christ set the example for us through His humble birth, life, death and glorious resurrection. The first-century Christians followed in His steps. They took the message of Truth to society, government and politics; and turned them all upside down. It was the ultimate counter-culture movement. They overcame by the Blood of the Lamb.

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“...full of grace and truth.”

What does that mean and what does it look like? The obvious short answer is it looks and sounds like Jesus. In our current cultural moment, we must focus more than ever on speaking and living both graciously and truthfully. It is not easy for us to do both let alone do both well.

When we need to speak or demonstrate grace, the temptation is to compromise the truth, and when we need to speak truthfully, it is easy to do so without grace.

For the sake of our families, our churches, our communities and those without the Savior, we must emulate the character of the Incarnate Word, seeking to be “full of grace and truth.” Every person needs grace, but grace is experienced as people embrace the truth. Every person needs truth, but we must learn to “speak the truth in love.”

As this year ends and a new one begins, may the Lord grant that His people would be salt and light to a culture that desperately needs **both** grace and truth.

How can the birth of Christ over 2000 years ago affect our world, and more specifically, our own lives? In reality, it means the same thing for us that it did for the first-century Christians living in the midst of a world in turmoil.

This is our message: God came to Earth in the form of a humble infant—entirely God yet also entirely man. Divinity wrapped in mortality. Infinity confined to the finite. Ultimate power clothed in ultimate helplessness. The Almighty God, born in a stable and welcomed by lowly shepherds, kingly magi and angelic hosts.

Why did He come? Listen to Jesus Christ, at the moment of His impending death, reveal why He was born into the world. “...Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth...” (John 18:37)

Then Pilate asks the ultimate question and commits the ultimate sin. Sneering at Christ’s response, he asks, “What is truth?” and turns and walks away from Truth incarnate. In John 14:6, “Jesus saith...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

For believers in Christ, that same Truth lives in us. It was the Truth that drove the first-century Church to change their world for Christ. It was the Truth that fanned the flames of zeal in those early Christians, inspiring them to take a life-giving, life-changing message to a lost world, and then gave them the courage to face the lions in the arena and to face all the power and evil of the Roman Empire!

What is Truth? It is not really a what. It is a Who. Truth is Jesus Christ come to Earth, born of a virgin, fully God and fully man. We celebrate His birth this Christmas. Each spring, we celebrate the Truth’s sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. And one day, we will welcome His return!

May we burn with the same zeal and passion of the first-century Christians—to take the message of Truth to our communities, state and nation, to revolutionize our world for the Truth of Christmas—Jesus Christ!

All of us at Wisconsin Family Council thank you for your prayers and support this year and wish you and yours a blessed Christmas!

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

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