

# The Path Of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**



***“And we...are being transformed  
into his likeness with ever  
increasing glory.***

**2Cor 3:18**



**“What does it mean to “be like Jesus?” We could come up with long lists of His character qualities. But the longer the list, the less we can wrap our minds around it. Jesus is full of two things: 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... full of grace and truth.”* People only had to look at Jesus to see what God is like. People today should only have to look at us to see what Jesus is like. For better or worse, they draw conclusions about Christ from what they see in us. A grace-starved, truth-starved world needs Jesus, full of grace and truth.**



The image features a person walking away from the viewer on a dark asphalt road that stretches into the distance. The road is flanked by grassy fields under a dramatic, cloudy sky. A large, glowing orange and yellow sphere is superimposed over the scene, with a bright light source inside it. The text 'The Path Of RIGHTEOUSNESS' is overlaid on the sphere, with 'The Path Of' in a smaller, spaced-out font and 'RIGHTEOUSNESS' in large, bold, black capital letters. The overall atmosphere is one of a journey or quest.

The Path Of  
**RIGHTEOUSNESS**

## **Part 2: Truth Abusers!**



**VIDEO HERE!**



# Truth Abusers Defined

*A truth abuser is a person that lives in the realm of “Truth” but neglects grace. Instead of being “full of grace and truth” like Jesus, they are full of truth, but often lack grace. This person will regularly exclude, marginalize or de-emphasize grace, and thus become unbalanced in the way they speak, the opinions they hold, and especially the way they interact with others. A truth abuser can often be identified by the way they use the truth of God to further their personal agenda, push their opinions, serve themselves and burden or beat others up with “the simple truth!”*

RIGHTEOUSNESS



# “Their Motto”

*“All I did was speak the truth...someone needed to do it!”*



# Biblical Examples

- *Mt 12:9-14*      *Withered hand*      *Pg 689*
- *Mk 2:16ff*      *Eating with “sinners”*      *Pg 708*
- *John 8*      *Woman caught in adultery*      *Pg 757*



# **“Truth Abusers Test”**

## **9 Indicators From Matthew 23**

**Page 700**

**1-2**

***Normal***

**3-4**

***Be Careful!***

**5-6**

***Definitely***

**7-9**

***Pharisee mtg in Gym after church!!!***



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- Vs 1-3 You much prefer preaching the truth at others to practicing the truth in your personal life.



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- Vs 4 After a brief conversation with you, people understand just how much of a burden it is to serve God!



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- **Vs 5-12**      You use the scripture to impress others with what you know rather than enable them to live for God.



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- Vs 13-15 • Your “conversion” conversations push people away from Jesus rather than draw them closer to him.



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- Vs 16-22 You feel very comfortable with the letter of the Law, but struggle with the Spirit of the law!



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- Vs 23-24 You major on the minors and minor on the majors!



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- **Vs 25-28** You are more concerned with how external behavior matches the scripture...than the heart.



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- **Vs 29-36** You are always able to find a way to justify your actions and be “righteous” while condemning others.



# You might be a truth abuser if...

- **Vs 37-39 You resist every call to change...even the call of God!**



# Truth Abusers Prescription

•Surrender your heart and Submit your spirit to the “Spirit of Grace and truth” that God wants to rule in your life

John 14:15-18

*“I will ask the Father and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever.”*



# Truth Abusers Prescription

- *Determine that you are only going to speak the truth when you can do so in love.*

*Eph 4:15 Pg 828*

*“Speaking the truth in love.”*



# Truth Abusers Prescription

- *Be careful that you do not add your opinions, thoughts and perspective to the truth of the Word of God.*

**1 Corinthians 4:6**

***“Do not go beyond what is written.”***

