**HOPE HAS A SEASON**

Message #1 “Christmas with the Kranks”

Scripture Survey

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**RELATIONAL PATTERNS FOR CHRISTMAS KRANKS**

**#1. LET GO OF “JUDGEMENTALISM”.**

**GRACE TRUTH:**

*Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.” JESUS*

*Psalm 10:15 “Break the arm of the wicked and evil man; call him to account for his wickedness that would not be found out.”*

**Why do I tend to look for faults in others?**

**#2. NURTURE GENUINE LOVE AND KINDNESS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD DO HARM.**

*Romans 12:14-21 “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse… 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

**GRACE TRUTH:**

*Matthew 5:43-47 “You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons 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. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?”*

**#3. SPEAK TRUTH BUT EXTEND GRACE.**

*Eph. 4:1-3, 14-16 “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace… Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

*TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE LEADS TO HURT AND DIVIDE.*

*LOVE WITHOUT TRUTH LEADS TO RESENTMENT AND SHALLOWNESS.*

*“It goes to the motives of my heart, and by the way the Lord judges the thoughts and motives of my heart. I figure that if my thoughts and motives have been genuine then I can live with the consequences, even if it means brokenness in relationship. Because I have to at least look in the mirror and be the man of*

*God he has asked me to be.” Pastor Phil*

**GRACE TRUTH:**

*Matt. 5:23-26 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”* *JESUS*

**#4. TAKE THE HIGH ROAD.**

**GRACE TRUTH:**

*Matthew 5:38-42 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”*

**GRACE = UNDESERVED FAVOR OR MERCY**

**#5. RELEASE THE PAST.**

Col. 3:13-14 “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

“Our salvation has been obtained for us through God's abundant love and His merciful forgiveness. It is the basis of our relationship with Him, and therefore it should come as no surprise that it is the basis of our relationship with those around us.” Pastor Phil