

Grace and Truth

1. Charles Darwin introduced his evolutionary theories in 'the *Origin of the Species*' in 1859. Ten years later Charles Eliot a Darwinist was appointed Principal of Harvard Law School. He along with Christopher Langdell introduced the rule of law, the belief that biblical law was old fashioned and case law was allowed to supersede it. *Discuss how things have changed since then.*
2. Hitler's Germany wiped out 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. This occurred at a time when Germany had the best universities and technology in the world. They believed that they were a master race and as such were entitled to rule the world. These beliefs led to them to believing that they were entitled to wipe out an entire race. *Discuss other situations where the ideas of man contradict the ways of God.*
3. Our perspective on the poor can sometimes be blurred by our prejudices. We may view ourselves as superior - wiser and more educated. Pride can produce a lack of understanding of God's acceptance and love. Give some examples of how this has happened.
4. Jesus told a story about a Pharisee and a tax collector (Luke 18:10-14) The "truth" that this Pharisee knew put a distance between him and the tax collector. Are we also guilty of sometimes looking down on people who believe differently to us? Give examples. Do we sometimes elevate our doctrine over love and over our relationship with people?
5. There are many different Economic Systems. Karl Marx introduced - socialism/communism – essentially saying that the resources of a country should be divided up evenly. Adam Smith – favoured capitalism & a free market economy. "When the reward is great, the effort to succeed is great. When a government channels where all the reward goes, people make less effort to succeed." Do you agree?

6. "Jesus gave most of his attention to the sick, the poor, and the powerless. He was soft on the sinners and tough on the religious. He always attempted to draw people to Himself , but he never manipulated them or forced them" Give some examples of how he did this?
7. There has been a growing mistrust of the church in society over the past decades. Why is the church often viewed as irrelevant by modern society?
8. It's not what we say - but what we do that makes a difference. Our world is desperate for a message of truth, but it will only accept it when it sees love in our lives, our eyes and our hearts. If we live the message - then we can speak the truth. Do you agree? Give some examples of how this sometimes does and doesn't happen.
9. How are you perceived in your workplace, school or family? Are non-believers drawn to you in the way that they were to Jesus. How can people around you know that you care about them? Pray for each other. Ask the Lord to guide you how to vote on Saturday.