

big CHURCH

BIG CHURCH #5 :: Big Drift {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Controversies arise in churches for many reasons. Some important. Some seemingly trivial. One tension that arose in the early days of the Church and that continues to surface over and over is the issue of grace and truth. Namely, how good does a person have to be in order to be part of the church?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From your perspective, who is the church for?
2. Have you had any bad experiences with a church that made you want to say, “I don’t want anything to do with them anymore”?
3. In your opinion, is it too easy or too hard to become a Christian?
4. Read Acts 15. The controversy for the Church at that time was over circumcision and dietary laws. What are contemporary sources of controversy for “entry” in the Church?
5. How can you guard against the propensity to drift toward law and away from grace?

MOVING FORWARD

We have to work hard not to be a church where grace and truth conflict but coexist. Jesus was full of both grace and truth. So, in response, let’s make three commitments:

- Let’s be more concerned with who we are reaching rather than who we are keeping.
- Let’s always err on the side of grace.
- Let’s remain open-handed in attempts to advance the message of Jesus Christ.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

Acts 15:19