

Grace and Truth:

Toward Christlike Relationships with Muslims (Part 1)

The prayer subjects for today were introduced on the previous page. We as believers need to search our hearts and pray through the following points. Again we encourage believers to repent concerning all un-Christlike attitudes toward Muslims which are unworthy of our crucified and risen King.

1. Be Faithful to God's Truth – the Whole Truth

We seek to relate to Muslims on the basis of the core convictions of Christian faith, not by hiding or diminishing them. Relating to Muslims with respect, understanding and love includes bearing faithful witness to essential truths of the gospel. Jesus is Lord. Forgiveness, salvation and eternal life are free gifts of God's grace available to any person through repentance and faith in Jesus' death and resurrection. We seek to obey the whole will of God, with its implications for every part of our lives in this world (Mt. 22:37, 39; 28:20; Micah 6:8).

▶ *Pray these things for yourself, your congregation and the body of Christ concerning our relationships with Muslims.*

2. Be Jesus-Centered in our Interaction

Our focus is Jesus because he is the essence of the gospel. (1 Cor. 2:2). We affirm a Jesus-centered approach to Muslims because it highlights the treasure of the gospel. It does not confuse the Good News with Christendom, patriotism or our civilization. Jesus is our model, and we seek to embody his life in all we say and do.

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3. Be Truthful and Gracious in our Words and Witness

We seek to be accurate when we speak about Muslims and their faith. Overstatement, exaggeration and words taken out of context should not be found among followers of Jesus (Mt. 12:36, Ex. 20:16, Mt. 7:12, Mt. 22:39). We affirm that proclaiming the Good News is a higher priority than defending our culture.

▶ *Pray these things for yourself, your congregation and the body of Christ concerning our relationships with Muslims.*



4. Be Wise in our Words and Witness

God's Word calls us to share our faith wisely. "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity" (Col. 4:5, James 3:17-18). We need to embrace that which is impartial and sincere, neither glossing over vital truths nor telling only one side of a story.

▶ *Pray these things for yourself, your congregation and the body of Christ concerning our relationships with Muslims.*

See Part 2 Tomorrow

(The complete document is available on our web site. This document is a shortened version without the signatures of representatives of various organizations and church affiliations).