



THE CHRISTIAN AND MODERN
CULTURE:
WHEN MODERN CULTURE COMES TO
GRACE CHURCH OF MENTOR

JULY 16, 2017



HOW DO WE RELATE TO *BELIEVERS* WHO ARE EMBRACING ASPECTS OF MODERN CULTURE THAT WE BELIEVE ARE WORLDLY?

PART OF THE REALITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS THE
INFLUENCE OF MODERN CULTURE AMONG THE CHURCH MEMBERS.
NO NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH ILLUSTRATES THIS BETTER THAN
CORINTH.

POSSIBLE (LIKELY?) SCENARIOS

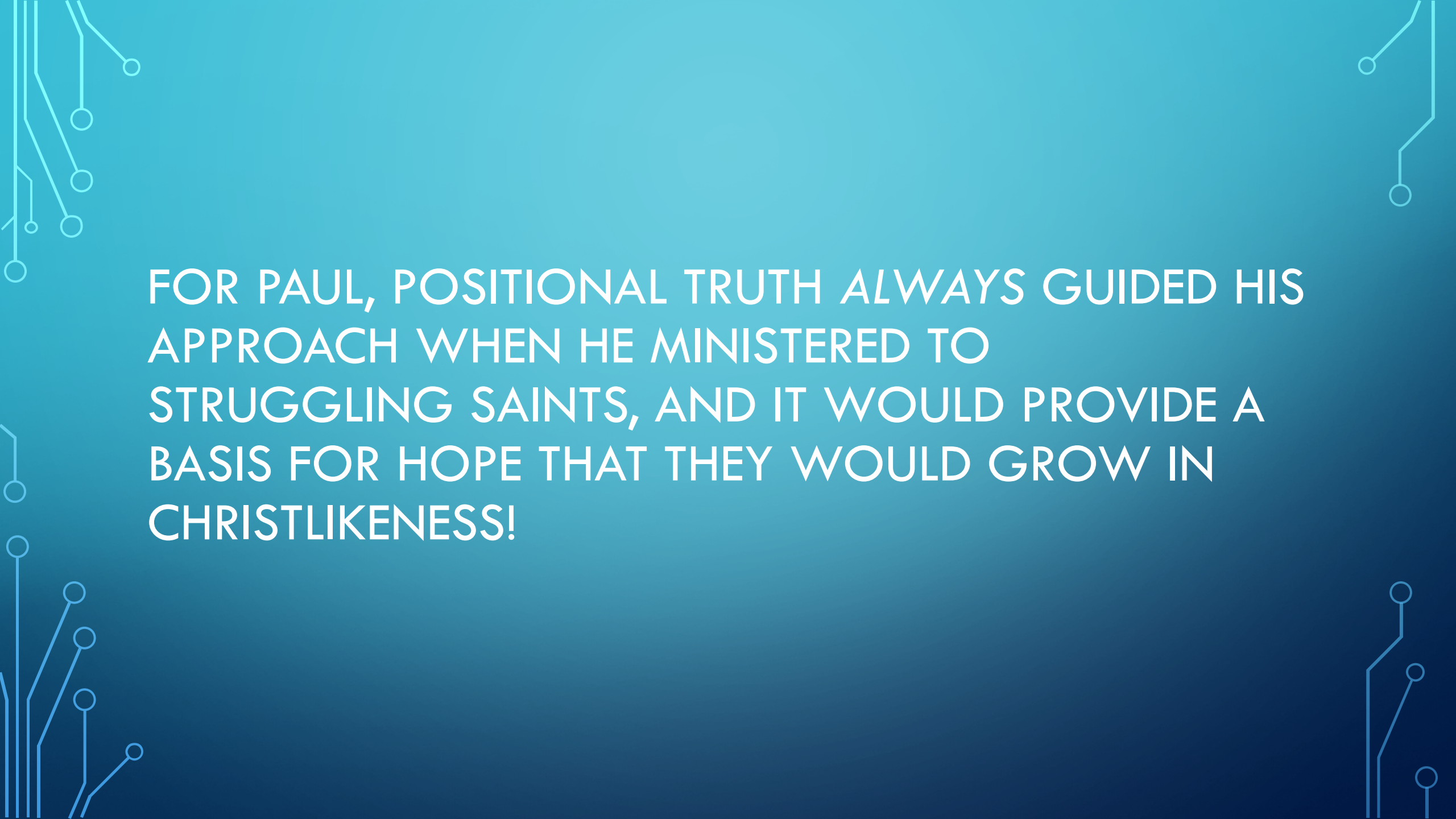
- **Scenario #1:** While scanning your Facebook feed, you notice that a GCM family has posted pictures from their vacation, and there are several that make you feel uncomfortable. You believe that their behavior in those pictures could hurt their testimony for Christ.
- **Scenario #2:** You invite a couple from church over to your home for dinner. They just moved into the area and are looking to make GCM their church home. In the context of your conversation, you learn that they are not married yet living together.
- **Scenario #3:** A girl in the youth group has been coming to GCM for close to a year and is consistently dressed immodestly. Your son is in the youth group, and you are concerned about his ability to resist sexual temptation.

PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CORINTHIAN SAINTS

- “Those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling” (v 2)
- “I thank my God always concerning you” (v. 4)
- “(I)n everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge” (v 5)
- “(T)he testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you” (v 6)

PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CORINTHIAN SAINTS

- “You are not lacking in any gift” (v 7)
- “(You are) awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (vv 7-8)
- “God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (v 9)

The background is a solid teal color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art elements that resemble circuit traces or a network diagram, with lines connecting to small circles.

FOR PAUL, POSITIONAL TRUTH ALWAYS GUIDED HIS APPROACH WHEN HE MINISTERED TO STRUGGLING SAINTS, AND IT WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR HOPE THAT THEY WOULD GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Do you know these people at all?
- Are they believers?
- If they are saved, what is their spiritual progress up to this point?
- What kind of relationship do you have with them?

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ON APPLICATION

1. Tolerance does not mean that something "worldly" is acceptable (or promoted).
2. Stability is not the primary goal for a disciple-making church; growth in Christ-likeness is!
3. With relationships comes patience (1 Thess 5:14)