

# TRANSFORMATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

*David Dickson - Senior Leader*



## THE MESSAGE

JAMES 1:22

"..DON'T JUST LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD. YOU MUST DO WHAT IT SAYS.  
OTHERWISE, YOU ARE ONLY FOOLING YOURSELVES."

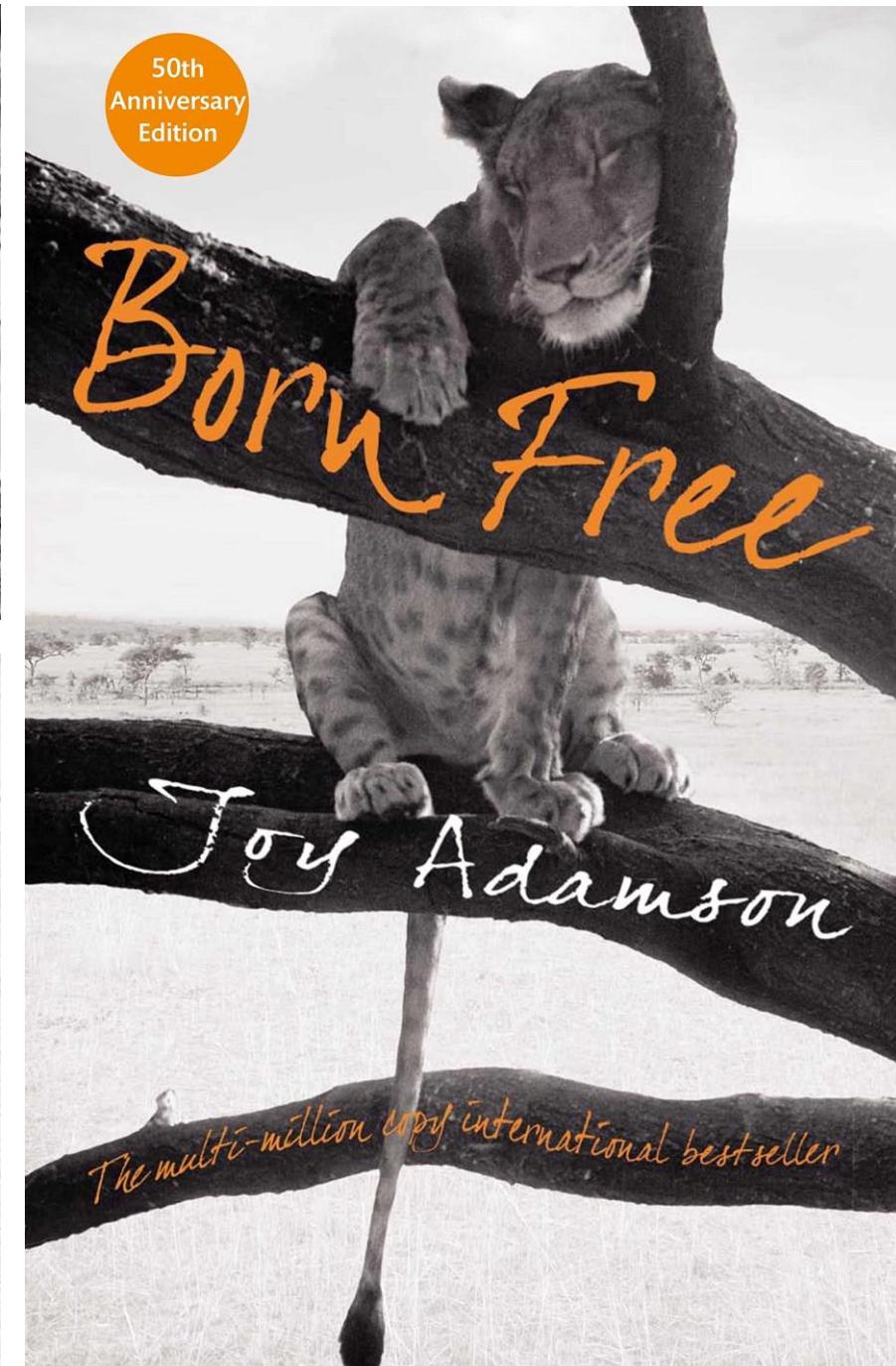
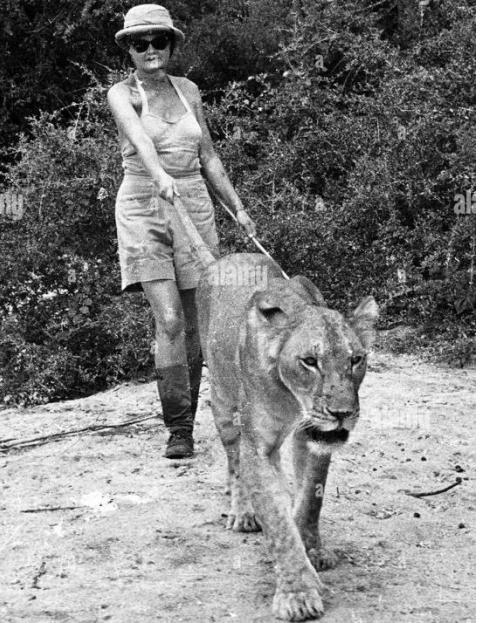
# SET FREE: *LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF* GRACE

Part 3 – Galatians 1:1-11 to 2:10

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS



Written in 1960 it sold 50 million copies and later became a world-famous film



**SO WHAT DOES IT  
MEAN TO BE SET  
FREE IN THE  
FREEDOM OF  
GRACE?**



**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



# **SET FREE IN GRACE MEANS WE HAVE ONE GOSPEL, NOT MANY CULTURAL VERSIONS**

**(READING SECTION Galatians 1:11–12; 2:6)**

**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



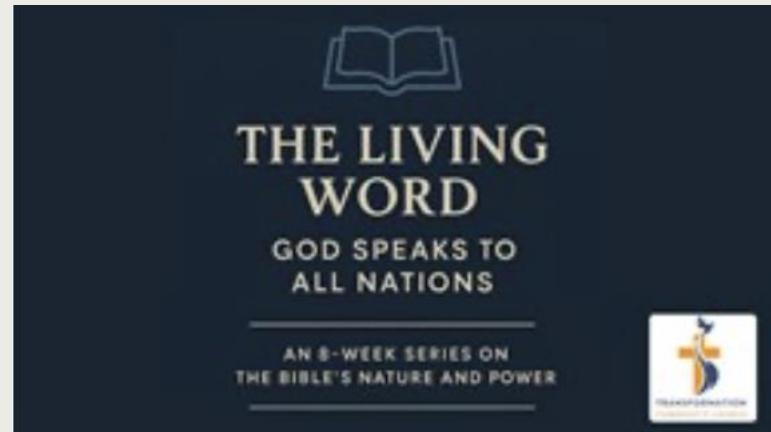
The gospel Paul preached did not come from any culture—Jewish, Greek, or Roman—but by **revelation from Jesus Christ.**

- **Gal 1:1** Paul’s changed life proves the power and reliability of the gospel and he established his authority.
- **Eph 4:4-6** “one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father who is over all”
- **2 Peter 1:20-21** the gospel is not personal interpretation or preference (that’s why it can’t be “my truth”).



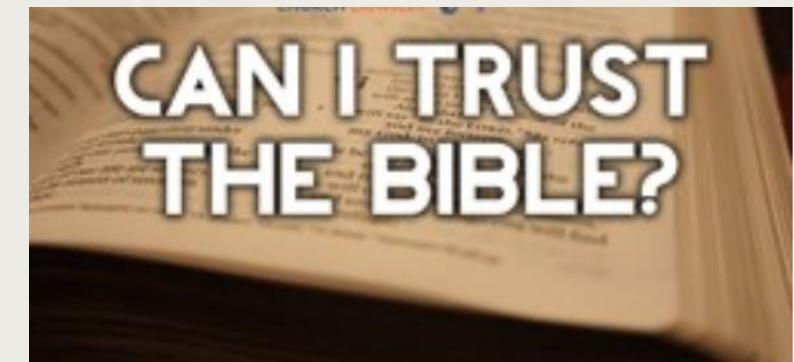
24/04/2022

Can I trust the bible?



13/07/2025

The Living Word Part 5 –  
The Inerrancy of Scripture



[www.transformationcommunity.church/media](http://www.transformationcommunity.church/media)

SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE



In an intercultural church, we bring rich histories, values, and traditions—but **none of our cultures get to edit the gospel.**

- Some cultures add **rules and respectability**
- Others add **success, experience, or freedom**
- Some turn faith into **belonging before believing**



Why is that important?

Paul reminds us: “*God does not show favouritism.*” (Gal 2:6)

Peter experienced it in **Acts 10:34**

James warned against the **sin of favouritism** in **James 2:9**

**YOUR CULTURE IS NOT THE GOSPEL**

**Eph 2:14-16 ONE PEOPLE**

**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



We don't need to become like *each other* to belong—  
we need to be shaped by **Christ alone**.

*Unity doesn't come from shared culture, but from shared grace.*

**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



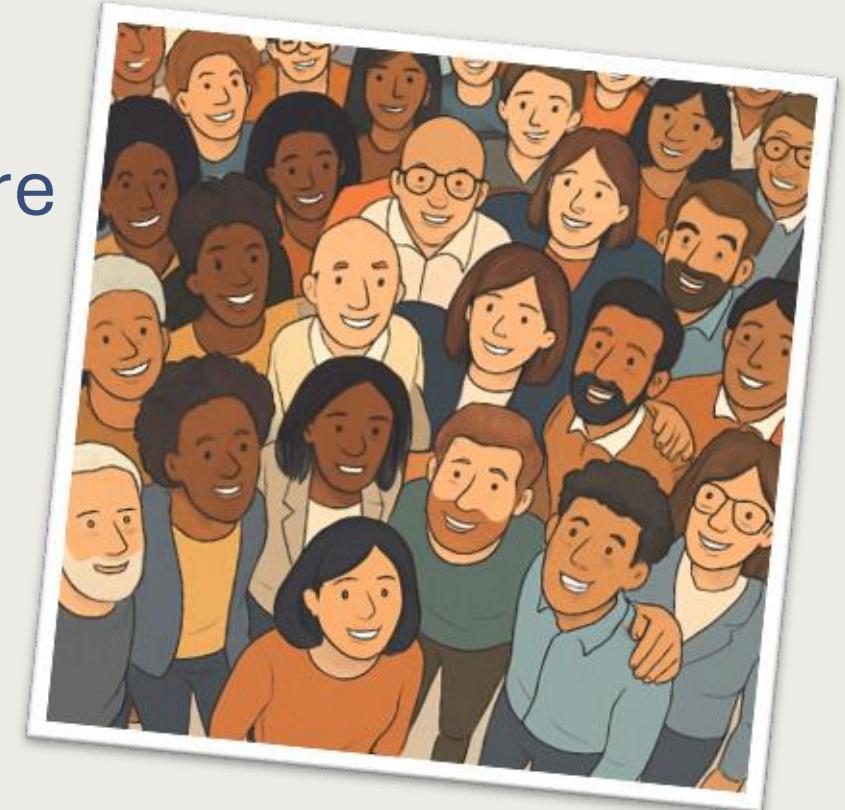
# **SET FREE IN GRACE MEANS WE HAVE EQUAL BELONGING, NOT SPIRITUAL HIERARCHIES**

**READING SECTION Galatians 2:1–5; 2:9**

**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



- Culture loves to add conditions - you are accepted when you listen to the same music, wear the same clothes, have the same political views.
- Social media is designed to give you more of what you believe - an “echo chamber”
- Paul refuses to let Titus (a Gentile) be forced into Jewish cultural practices to be accepted as a true believer.



Paul fights fiercely because he knows  
**adding cultural requirements destroys grace.**

*“We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.” (Gal 2:5)*

**Jesus + nothing = EVERYTHING**



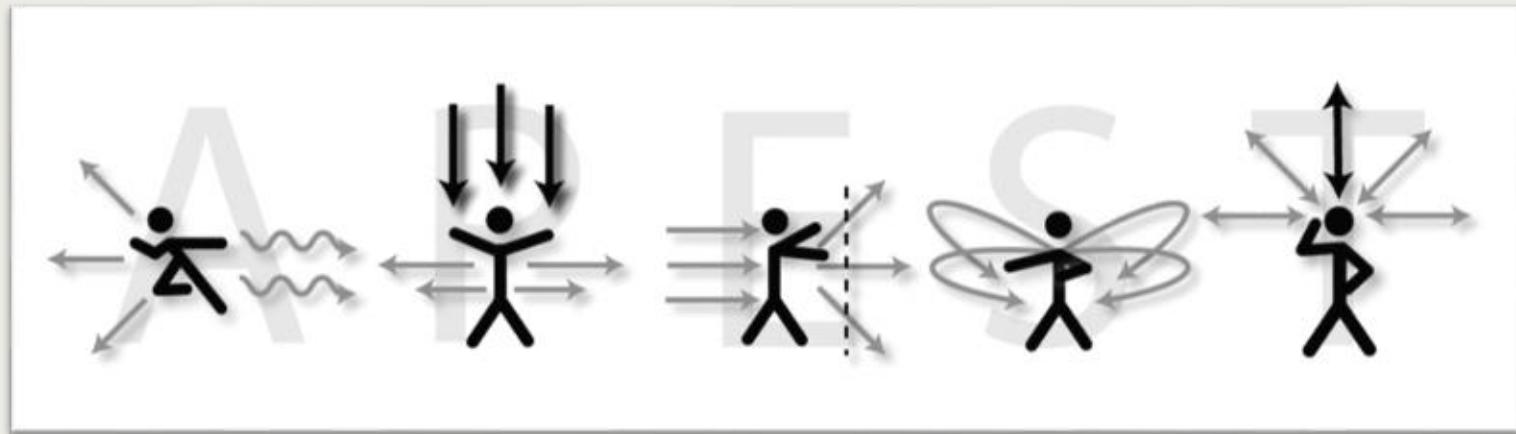
# Good News of Grace is that at the cross:

- No culture is **superior**
- No background is **inferior**
- No one earns a better seat at the table

## 1 Cor 12:18-26

one body many parts with a diversity of giftings





## Eph 4:11-13 APEST assessment

APEST is a ministry assessment emerging from the most comprehensive statement of ministry structure in Ephesians 4. Within this passage we find the fivefold ministry of APEST: apostolic, prophetic, evangelist, shepherd and teacher.

If you haven't already done so take the APEST to learn your area of motivation and expression of the 5 fold model of ministry.

Purchase your assessment for \$10 online at <https://5qcentral.com/tests/> and then send me the results at [david.dickson@tcchurch.org.uk](mailto:david.dickson@tcchurch.org.uk)

**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



**SET FREE IN GRACE MEANS WE ARE SENT  
OUT TOGETHER ON ONE MISSION**

**READING SECTION Galatians 2:7–10**

**SET FREE: LIVING IN THE SPIRIT OF GRACE**



The apostles recognise different callings—same gospel, **shared mission.**

Spiritual authority comes from God's calling, not human approval. (Gal 1:10)

- Paul to the Gentiles
- Peter to the Jews
- One message, one grace, one purpose



**Philippians 1:27 “contending as one for the Gospel”**

An intercultural church is not a problem to solve—it's a **gospel picture to protect**.

We don't all serve the same way, speak the same way, or reach the same people—but:

*“They added nothing to my message.” (Gal 2:6)*



# VISION & VALUES

TRANSFORMATION  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH



VISION

VALUES

We are a God-centred, Spirit-empowered Church, working to build a community of transformed disciples of Jesus who are:

- Intercultural
- Intergenerational
- International



TRANSFORMATION  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# CONCLUSION:

What does it mean to be set free in the freedom of grace?

**It means we have one Gospel, not many cultural versions**

- **One Gospel** – not shaped or defined by culture



# CONCLUSION:

What does it mean to be set free in the freedom of grace?

**It means we have equal belonging, not spiritual hierarchies**

- **One Grace** – no second-class believers



# CONCLUSION:

What does it mean to be set free in the freedom of grace?

**It means we are sent out together on one mission**

- **One Mission** – many people, one Christ



# Prayer Declaration:

Lord, help me to live free in grace,  
not trying to earn Your love.

