STEPHEN N. WONG

- San Francisco native
- PK (pastor's kid)
- Married 32 years
- Education: BS biology (1979), Mdiv theology (1984), PhD psychology (1996)
- Founding pastor of Grace Community Covenant Church, Los Altos (1998)
- Spiritual director, IDI QA





- a) To pay the penalty for our sins
- b) To bring us back to God
- c) To conquer sin

a) To pay the penalty for our sins

- b) To bring us back to God
- c) To conquer sin



INNOCENCE/GUILT: COURTROOM

- Focus on the individual
- Examples: 4 Spiritual Laws, Romans Road
- Forgiveness is transactional
- What's missing?

a) To pay the penalty for our sins

b) To bring us back to God

c) To conquer sin



HONOR/SHAME: COMMUNITY

- Agency in the community
- Honor can only be restored externally.
- Guilt by association.
- Shame is different from guilt: "You are by nature unfit to be a part of our social circle."
- "The Cross and the Lynching Tree"

1 PETER 3

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- a) To pay the penalty for our sins
- b) To bring us back to God
- c) To conquer sin



POWER/FEAR: BATTLEFIELD

- Agency focused on the leader
- Christus Victor

1 PETER 3

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.



POWER/FEAR: BATTLEFIELD

- Agency focused on the leader
- Christus Victor
- 1 John 4:18 "Perfect love drives out fear"

THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS (POWER/FEAR)

"Christ died on the Cross to crush the power of Satan and establish the Kingdom of heaven and you are now invited to be part of that victory!"

- 1. God is the good and loving King of the universe.
- 2. **Satan rebelled**, establishing a competing kingdom of darkness. He enticed humanity to also rebel, thus putting humanity under his dominion.
- 3. But **God conquered the kingdom of darkness** through the subversive act of Jesus' death on the Cross.
- 4. So **you can be freed** of the power of the kingdom of darkness and come back to the kingdom of heaven through the victory of Jesus' death on the Cross.



POWER/FEAR: BATTLEFIELD

- Agency focused on the leader
- Christus Victor
- 1 John 4:18 "Perfect love drives out fear"
- "Robin Hood" analogy



3 WORLDVIEWS

