



Godly Relationships

“The Grey Zone”





1 John 1:5-7 (NIV1984)

Walking in the Light

*⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.** ⁶ **If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.** ⁷ **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.***



Christians

**The
Grey
Zone**

**Non -
Christians**

Christians

**The
Grey
Zone**

**Non -
Christians**



Ephesians 4:17-19 (NIV1984)

*¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are **darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.***

And here is the KEY



*¹⁹ **Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.***



Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.









1 John 2:16 (NIV)

¹⁶For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — comes not from the Father but from the world.



10 points to consider if the world offers me something!

1. Is it useful?
2. Is it constructive? Will it contribute to my spiritual growth?
3. Will it slow me down in my race to Heaven?
4. Will it produce dependence?
5. Can it be used to cover sin or to mask the sin in my life?
6. Does it hinder Jesus' lordship over my life?
7. Will it be a good example for the other believers?
8. Will it lead others to Christ?
9. Is it the example of Jesus Christ?
10. Does it honour God?

James 4:1-6(NIV)



Submit Yourselves to God

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from **your desires that battle within you?** ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. **You covet** but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, **because you ask with wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴ **You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.** ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud
but shows favour to the humble.”



James 4:7-10(NIV)

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil (The Grey Zone), and he will flee from you. **⁸ Come near to God** and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail.** Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **¹⁰ Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will lift you up.





The diagram consists of three vertical rectangular columns of equal height and width, separated by thin blue lines. The leftmost column is solid black. The middle column is a uniform light grey. The rightmost column is solid white. The text 'The Grey Zone' is centered within the grey column.

The Grey Zone



References

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/grey-zone-decisions.html>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

<http://www.google.co.za>

Audio (WMA) and text (PDF) ministry

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Godly Relationships – “The Grey Zone”

The Grey Zone is a 2001 film directed by Tim Blake Nelson.

It is based on the book *Auschwitz: a Doctor's Eyewitness Account* written by Dr. Miklós Nyiszli.

The title comes from a chapter in the book *The Drowned and the Saved* by Holocaust survivor Primo Levi. The film tells the story of the Jewish *Sonderkommando* XII in the Auschwitz concentration camp in October 1944. These prisoners **were made** to assist the camp's guards in shepherding their victims to the gas chambers and then disposing of their bodies in the ovens.

What I want to do today is to speak about a “Grey Zone” that exists in our world today and the dangers of living in it.

The Grey Zone to us represents an area of our lives where we are “made” to **relegate Jesus to a level equal to all the other things** that take up our lives.

What does the Bible say?

SLIDE

READ

Scripture: 1 John 1: 5-7

The Bible is very clear and it warns us about Darkness and encourages us to walk in the light.

So Satan knows the obvious difference between darkness and light. And he knows that those who have chosen to serve God fear the darkness and will try their best to choose the light.

SLIDE

Why – because we know what exists in darkness and we know what exists in the light.

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So the crafty Devil gives us the in-between – “GREY”

And unfortunately Christians have **not noticed** what the devil is doing and have taken their eyes off God and now look acceptably at the “Grey Zone” as a **place of comfort**.

The Comfort Zone or the Grey Zone is easy.

You see in the Grey Zone:

- I can do what I want
- Most things are acceptable.
- No I won't go into the dark I'll just stay here in the Grey Zone
- And I find that even churches allow me to live in the Grey Zone.

Just what the devil wants?

When he can **control your mind** he has you in the palm of his hand and will **control your life** and **harden your heart** and keep you in the Grey Zone **SEPARATED** from God.

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READ Ephesians 4:17-19 (NIV1984)

THE KEY – Having lost all **SENSITIVITY**.

It is Satan's desire to **DESENSETIZE** you and he does this in the Grey Zone.

And God wants you to be **SENSITIVE** to His Holy Spirit.

The Cares of the World – The Parable of the Sower of Seed.

Jesus spoke saying that these cares “choke the word” in people and make it unfruitful.

The same can be said about sensitivity to the Spirit. The more we focus on the cares and problems of our physical lives the more we become desensitized to the Holy Spirit.

In fact, this is one of the main reasons why the devil continually attacks us in this area – he wants to take our focus off God and onto physical problems which he also uses to attack us in the realm of our emotions.

So Jesus knew that the Devil’s function would be to “choke the word”.

And Satan does this in the Grey Zone **which to most is acceptable.**

SO!

I think that it is clear!

The Grey Zone exists and in it Satan **has all power** to desensitize you, to choke the word out of you. **He is the god of this age!**

All power you say.

Eph 6:12: For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

SLIDE

Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

⁴ *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

And he does not present himself or we would be frightened so he does what God does;

He provides an **easy choice** – and the lazy step right in.

What does it look like?

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You get to choose the “Path that leads to Life” or the “Easy Path”

But remember before you choose Jesus warned;

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Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

The Grey Zone?

The ATTITUDE in the Grey Zone is first and foremost:

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John warns us that we should not love the world because

The five senses; taste, touch, smell, hearing, and seeing, all report to the **carnal mind** which is the enemy of God.

These senses are what Satan uses to tempt us!

- The lust of the flesh includes tasting, touching, smelling, and hearing.
- The lust of the eyes is seeing.
- The pride of life is thinking you are special because of who you are, what you have, what you know, or what you look like.

And the world is geared around marketing to this.

Everything is pointed at making your life more comfortable normally at the expense of your pocket.

But Satan works at making it more comfortable and this comfort is geared to take control of your mind.

Satan used these in the Garden of Eden to great effect.

Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV)

¹ ***Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”***

² *The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree*

that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

So today our senses are bombarded by the world.

This is done to desensitize our senses so we are more accepting of the world and the scheme of Satan to control our mind.

So what do we do to prevent this?

We can design our own world as the **Amish** do and live in exclusion.

But this is not what God wants.

I believe that God wants us to be **sensitive** to what the world has to offer.

In effect we have to **learn to discern** what the world throws at us so we can wisely choose what is good.

Here are some pointers.

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1. Is it useful?

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)

¹² *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.*

The verse says:

Does it make me spiritually stronger (closer to God) or does it bring me lower spiritually speaking. Will the action the choice you are about to make have a positive effect on the spiritual scale? If it doesn't, then you can stop right here without further questioning.

2. Is it constructive? Will it contribute to my spiritual growth?

1 Corinthians 10:23(NIV)

²³ *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive.*

The principle extracted from this verse is that of edification.

We can't expect a house to be built when the constructors are not adding up the necessary layers of bricks; what's more, the constructors might even steal the existing bricks and that is not constructive at all for that house. It is the same with our inner being.

3. Will it slow me down in my race to Heaven?

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us

4. Will it produce dependence?

Will I become a slave of it?

Remember that God wants you to be free of anything that can hinder you and eventually pushes you down.

5. Can it be used to cover sin or to mask the sin in my life?

1 Peter 2:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

6. Does it hinder Jesus' lordship over my life?

Romans 14:13-19 (NIV)

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. ¹⁴ I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. ¹⁵ If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

¹⁹ *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

7. Will it be a good example for the other believers?

We are to be lights in the world through personal example.

8. Will it lead others to Christ?

We were sent in the world to take the Gospel to every creature!

9. Is it the example of Jesus Christ?

In other words, did Jesus Christ practice it?

1 John 2:6 (NIV)

⁶ *Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

10. Does it honour God?

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

³¹ *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

So whichever our "Grey zone" question might be, we have to keep in mind that if we are indeed born again Christians, we do have citizenship in Heaven and that is our first allegiance is The Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. That is why, through our words, attitudes or deeds, it is Him that we should be focused on.

And when we focus on God we remain in the light OUT OF THE GREY ZONE.

SLIDE

READ – James 4:1-10

Close with Grey Zone Slide