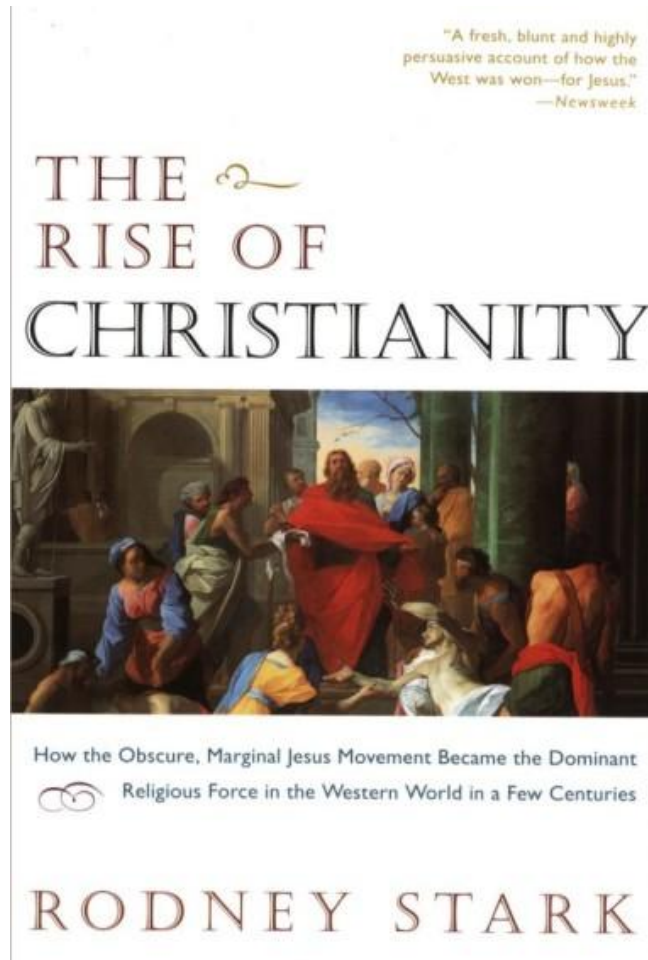


HOLDING THE TENSION: EXTENDING GRACE AND SPEAKING TRUTH

October 2011

The Rise of Christianity



- From 1,000 Christians in 40 A.D. to over 30 million by 350 A.D.
- What caused the dramatic increase in the Christian faith during this time?

Key Focus: Holding the Tension

- How do we extend Christian grace in our work and relationships with others, while still acknowledging the truth about the challenges we face (and/or) about the results and performance we need?”

Key Focus: Holding the Tension

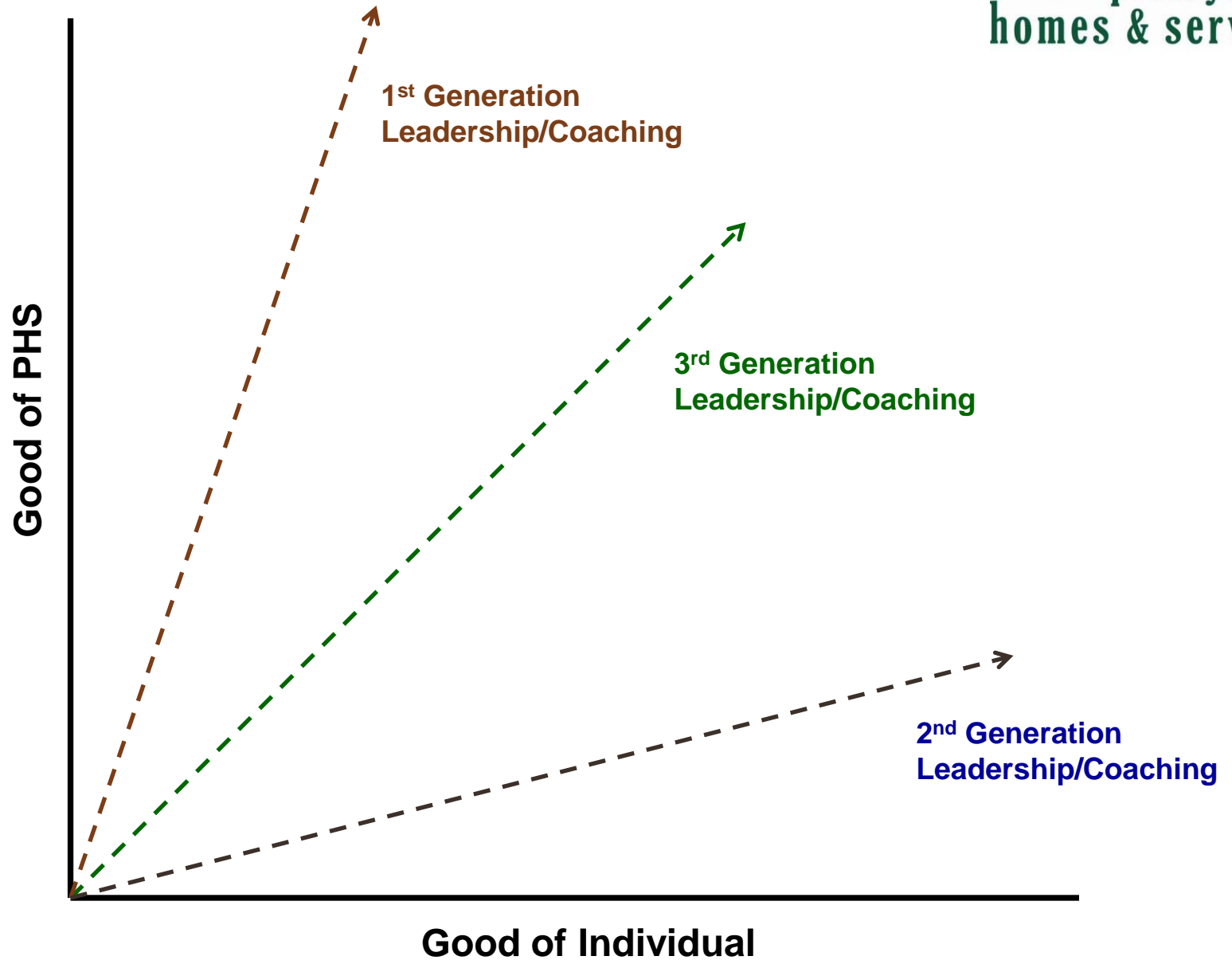
- How do other Christian organizations hold this tension?
- Examples:
 - YouthWorks
 - Churches
 - WorldVision
 - Campus Crusade

Key Focus: Holding the Tension

- Common Tension Areas
 - Working with Residents/Clients
 - Working with Employees

Key Focus: Holding the Tension

- Question for Discussion: In your role at Presbyterian Homes, where do you most often feel the tension between extending grace and embracing the truth?
- Feedback



High Support

Comfortable Quadrant
“Cozy Culture”

Engaged Quadrant
“Empowered Culture”

High Challenge

Low Challenge

Boring Quadrant
“Apathetic Culture”

Stressful Quadrant
“Discouraged Culture”

Low Support

Tension: Grace and Truth

- How did Jesus hold the tension between extending grace and embracing truth?
- John 1:14 – “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace ***and*** truth.” (emphasis mine)

Tension: Grace and Truth

- Case Study: John 8
- How does Jesus hold the tension between extending grace and embracing truth?

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Tension: Grace and Truth

- Where does Jesus find the strength to continue to hold this tension?
- Luke 3 – Identity Affirmation
 - “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’”

Tension: Grace and Truth

- Where does Jesus find the strength to continue to hold this tension?
- Jesus' certainty about his Christian identity provided the foundation for holding the tension between grace and truth.

Tension: Grace and Truth

- Christian Identity and Holding the Tension
- Examples:
 - Training Christian Communicators
 - Providing End of Life Care

The Question of How?

- Question for Discussion: Where do you see this tension between grace and truth coming into play when you look at the values of Presbyterian Homes?
- Values: Compassion, Service, People, Stewardship, Christian Ministry, Growth & Innovation

