

OUTSIDE OF THE BOX



WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS

A surrendered follower of the glorious Christ.

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1. Every 'believer' is a disciple.
2. Being a follower of Christ is dynamic rather than static.
3. The life of a disciple is empowered by the Spirit of God and the Word of God.
- 4. Discipleship is a *'person to be'* rather than a *'project or a program to complete'*.**
5. One essential dimension of following Christ is doing it with one another.

A surrendered follower of the glorious Christ.

The only way to live as a follower of Jesus
is to patiently and tenaciously stay connected

to the source of life

and to allow His Word, which is His truth
to infect and empower you.

Abide in Christ, and He will abide in you.

A surrendered follower of the glorious Christ.

Being a follower of Christ is not about “**trying harder**”
but it is about patiently and tenaciously
“**staying connected**” to the source...

A surrendered follower of the glorious Christ.

Being a follower of Christ is not about **“trying harder”**
but it is about patiently and tenaciously

“staying connected” to the source...

...the source of life which is found in Christ...

...He is the *‘logos’*....

...the Word....

...the Truth...

...the Life.

OUTSIDE OF THE **BOX**

OF THE

BOX

Logos





Logos is the Greek term translated as “word,” “speech,” “principle,” or “thought.”

In Greek philosophy, it also referred to a universal, divine reason or the mind of God.

In the New Testament, the Gospel of John begins,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men”. ([John 1:1-4](#))

Here it is clear that the “Word” or Logos is a reference to Jesus Christ.

John argues that Jesus, the Word or Logos, is eternal and is God.

Further, all creation came about by and through Jesus, who is presented as the source of life.

Amazingly, this Logos came and lived among us:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”. ([John 1:14](#))

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John's Gospel begins by using the Greek idea of a "divine reason" or "the mind of God" as a way to connect with the readers of his day and introduce Jesus to them as God.

Greek philosophy may have used the word in reference to divine reason, but John used it to note many of the attributes of Jesus.

In John's use of the Logos concept, we find that:

- Jesus is eternal (*"In the beginning was the Word"*)
- Jesus was with God prior to coming to earth (*"the Word was with God"*)
- Jesus is God (*"the Word was God."*)
- Jesus is Creator (*"All things were made through Him"*)
- Jesus is the Giver of Life (*"In Him was life"*)
- Jesus became human to live among us (*"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*)

John 15:1-17

- 1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.
- 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Abide in Christ and in His Word (Spirit-filled life).

Bear fruit that can only be real if you stay connected to the source.

Glorify God by simply letting Him do what only He can do in your life.

The one who abides in Christ is called His friend.

The highest calling is to give yourself to love as you have been loved.

17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

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John 15:1-17

Who is the vinedresser.

Who does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does not bear fruit, that it may bear more fruit.

Who is the Father in His Word (Spirit-filled life).

Who is the Father if you stay connected to the source.

Who is the Father if you let Him do what only He can do in your life.

Who is the Father if you are in Christ is called His friend.

Who is the Father if you have chosen yourself to love as you have been loved.

Who is the Father if you love one another.

As a follower of Jesus
what sort of a framework
can we use
to deal with, or to address
the societal,
the cultural,
the ethical
and
the moral issues
of our day
from a posture of love?

John 15:1-17

Who is the vinedresser.

Who does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does not bear fruit, that it may bear more fruit.

Live in His Word (Spirit-filled life).

Stay connected to the source.

Let Him do what only He can do in your life.

Whoever is in Christ is called His friend.

Love yourself to love as you have been loved.

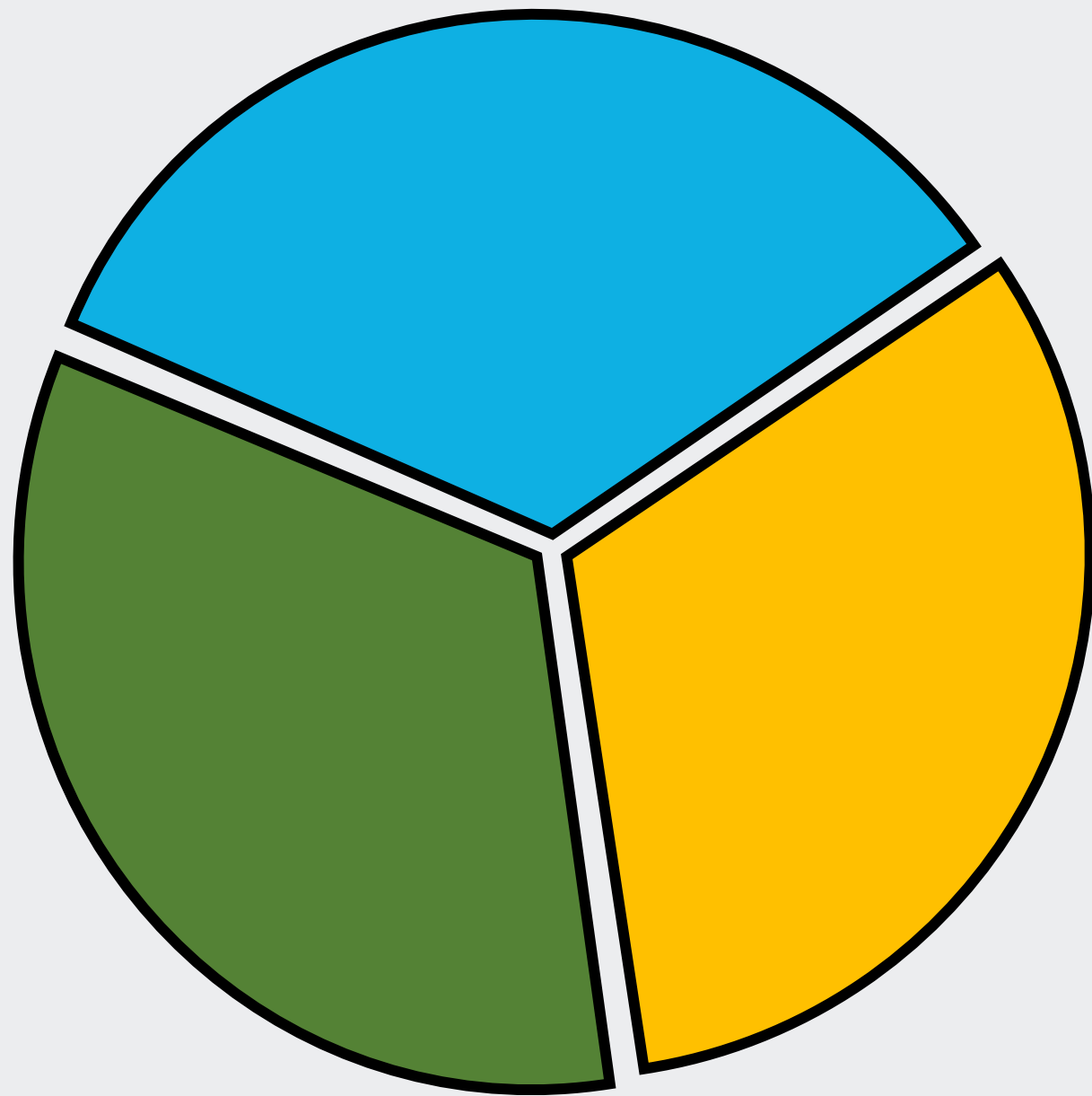
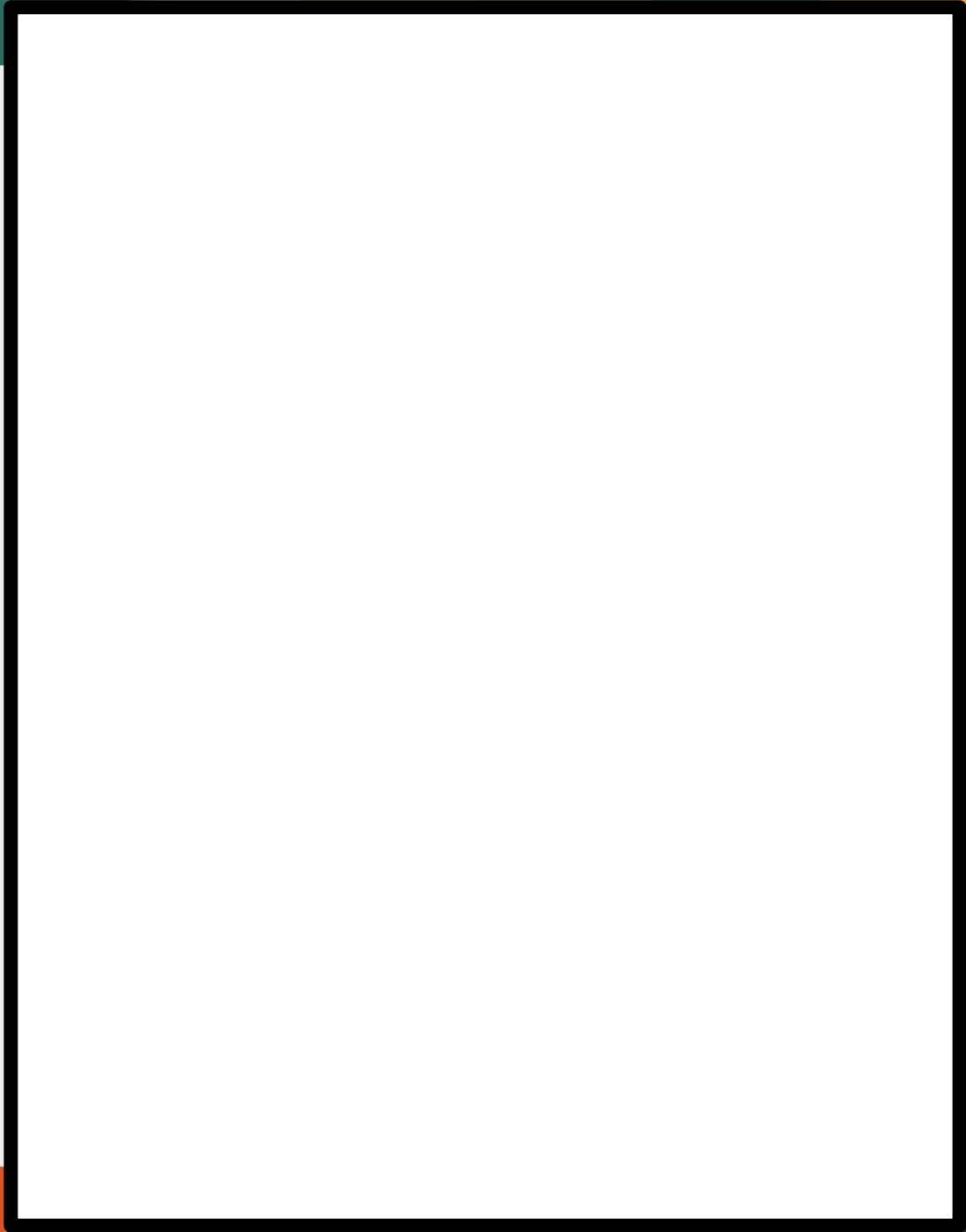
Love one another, so that you will love one another.

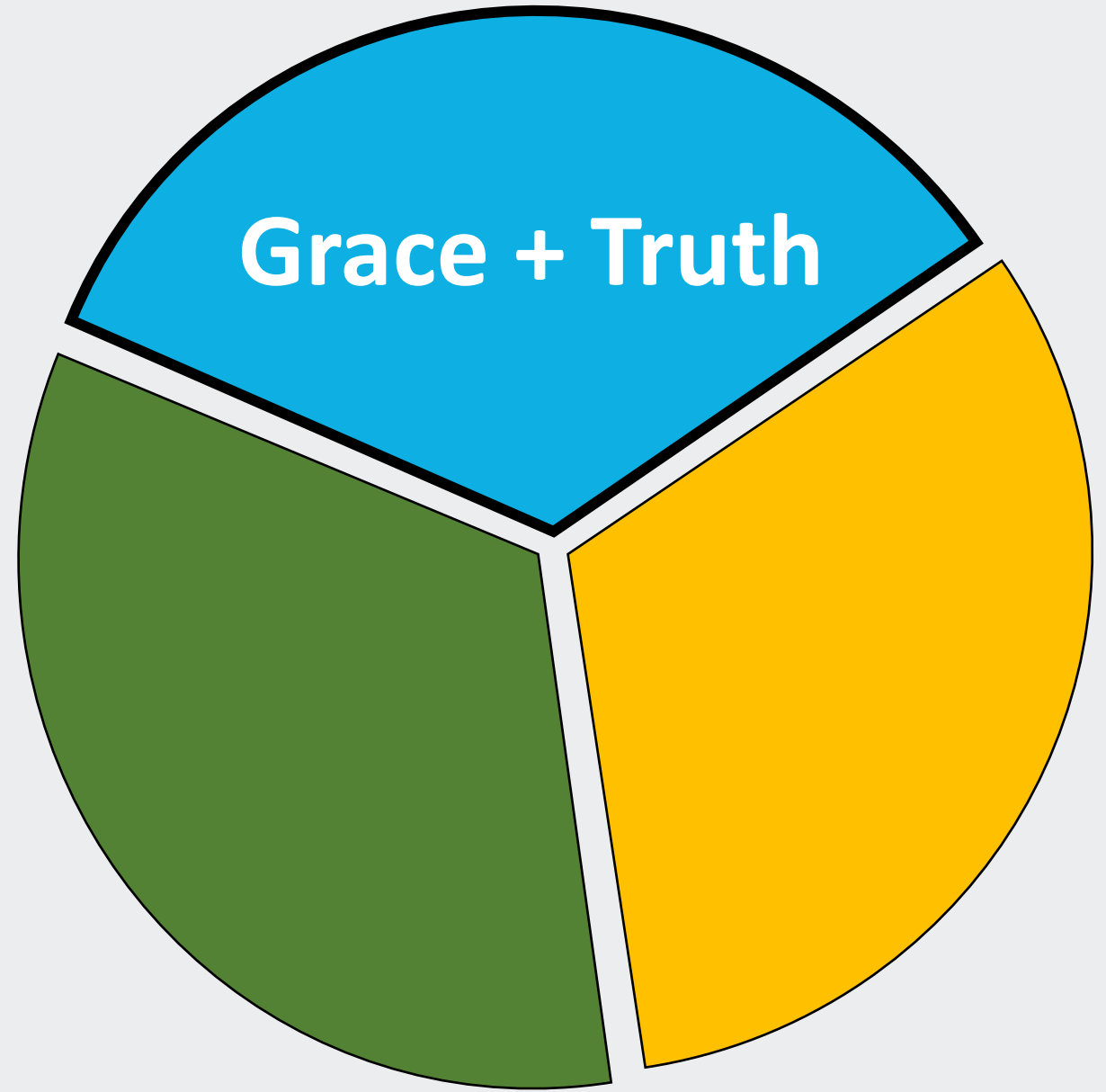
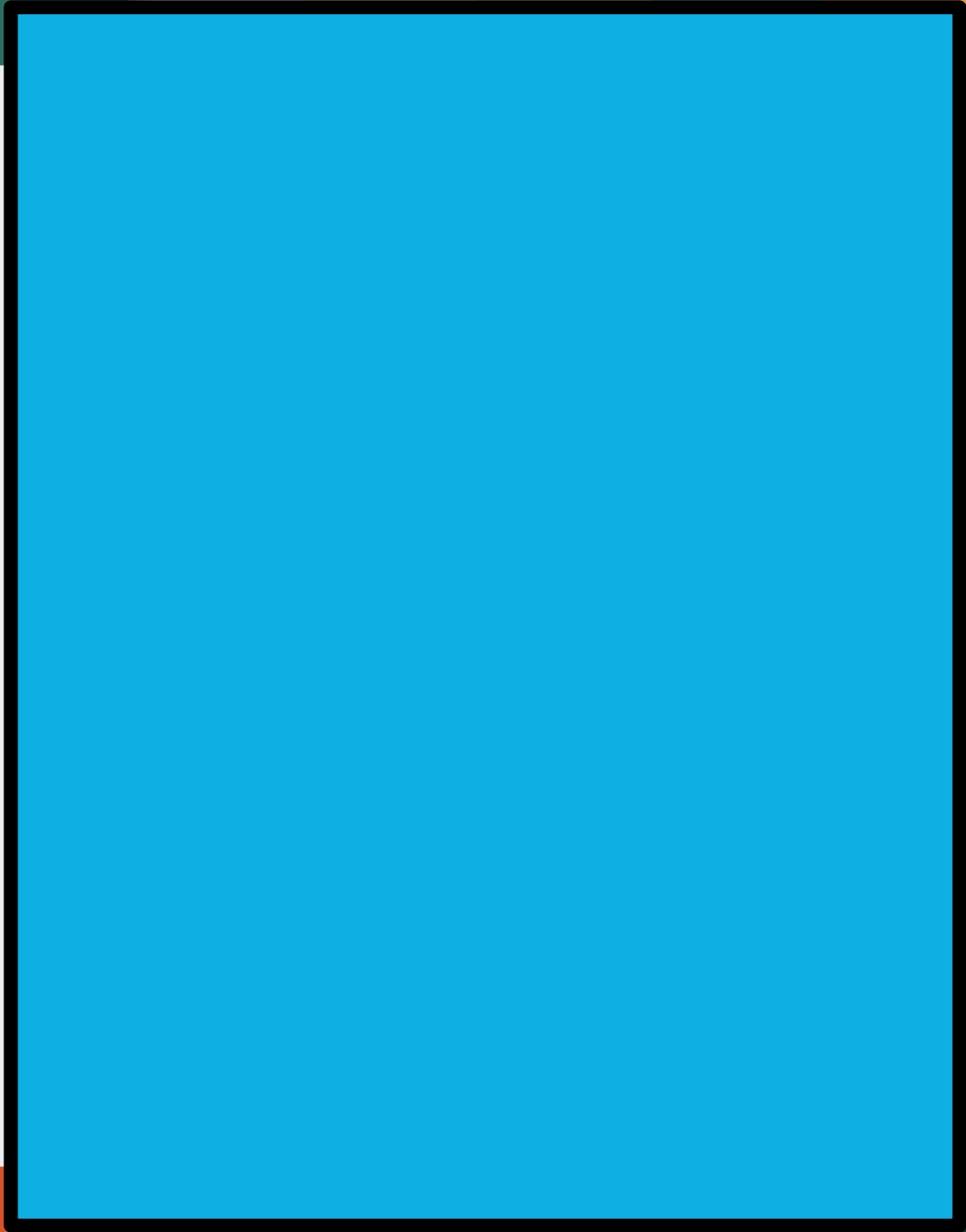
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of our day
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Our society is better at the soft
virtues— compassion and mercy,
than at the hard virtues—
like chastity and honesty.

Peter Kreeft
Professor of Philosophy
Boston College and The King's College

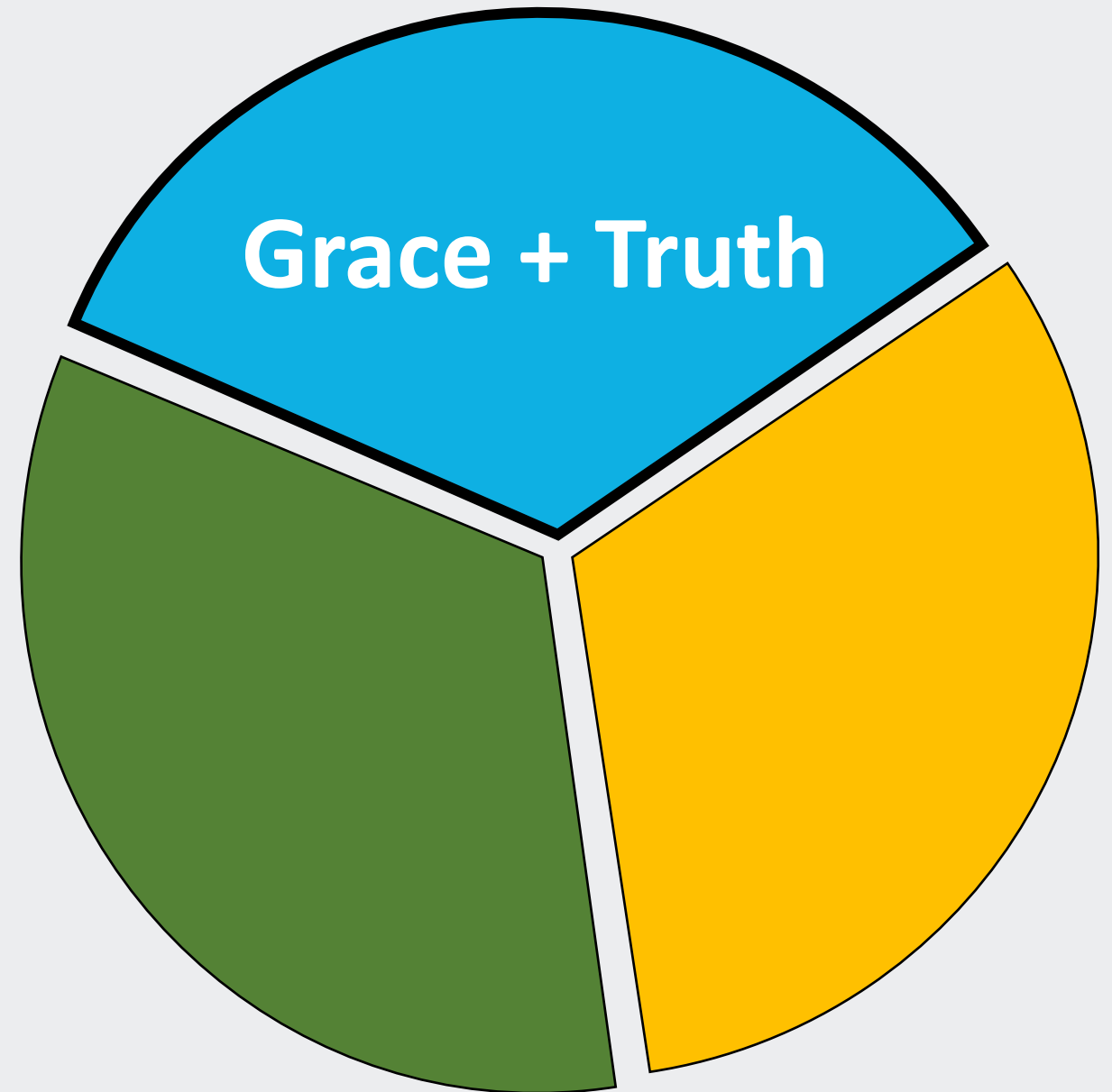
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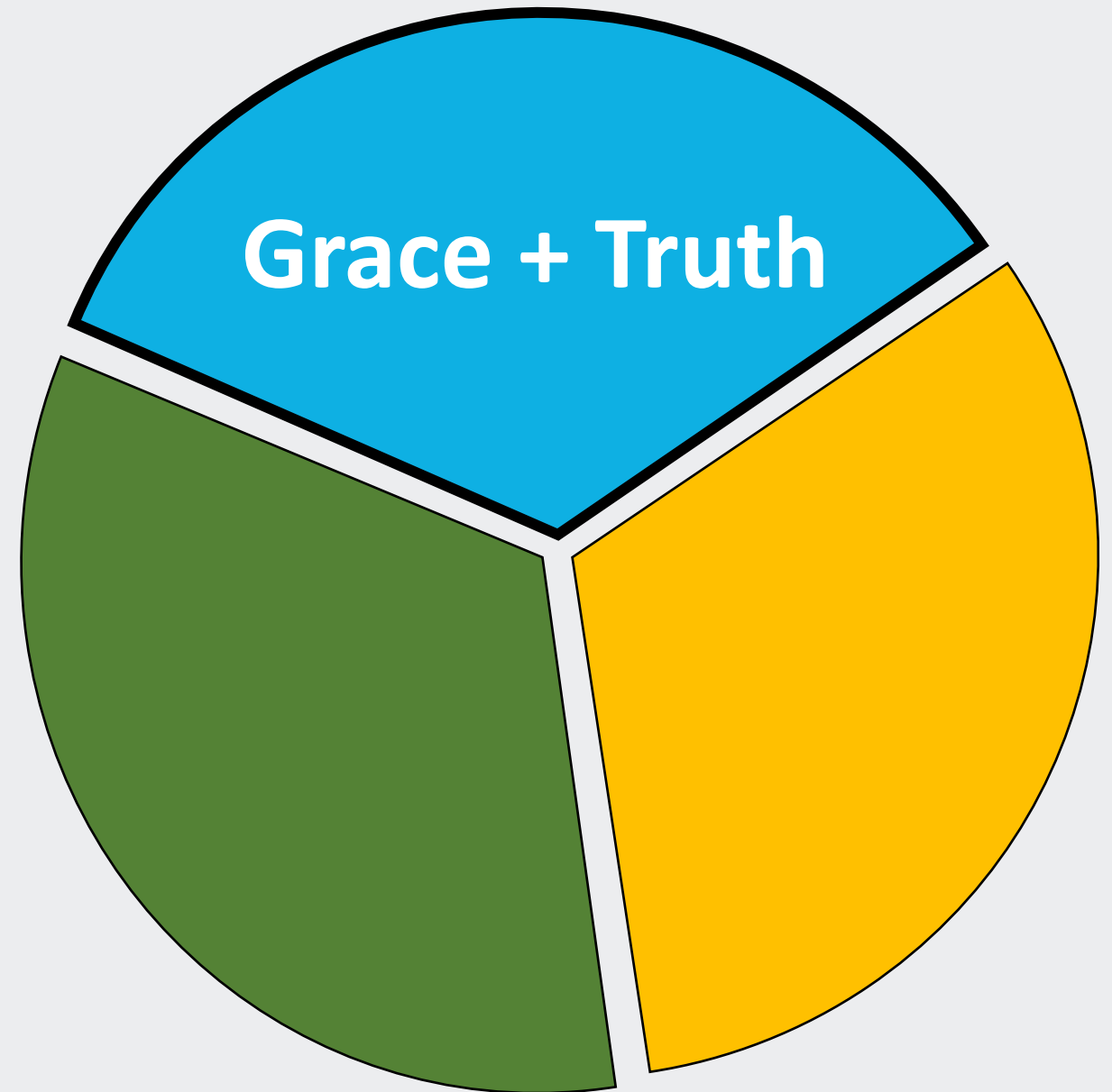
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(John 1:14)



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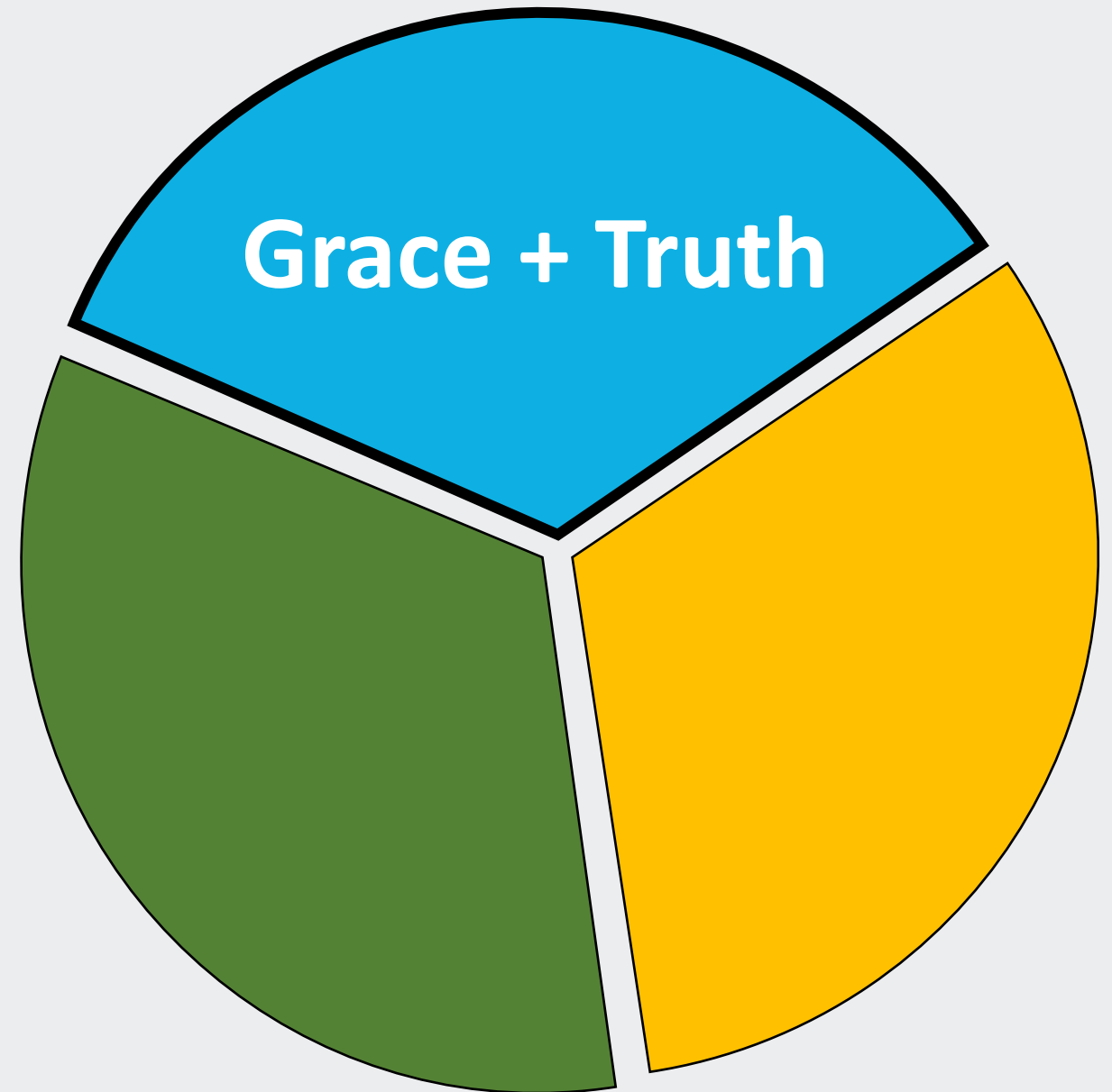
Greek: Plérés
full, abounding in, complete,
completely occupied with.



We need to be grace people and truth people. Not half grace and not half truth. Not all grace on Mondays and all truth on Tuesdays. All grace and all truth all the time.

By personality and upbringing and a whole bunch of other factors most of us lean in one direction or the other.

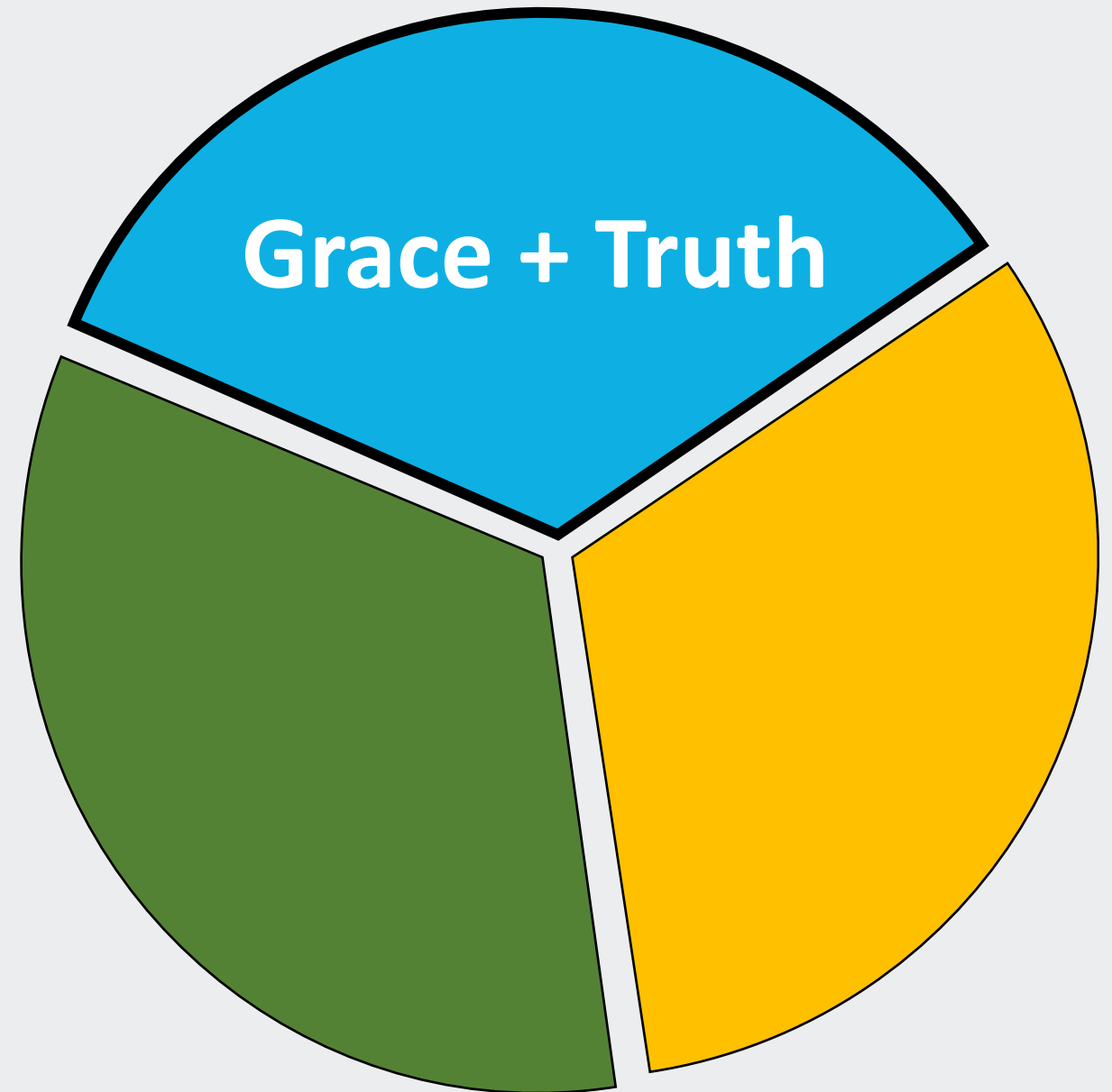
Grace people are pleasant to be around. They don't ruffle any feathers. They cut us a lot of slack. They're easy going. They accept us for who we are. They don't make demands. They are always welcoming. But without truth, grace isn't really grace, it's just being accepting and nice. But affirmation and being grace-filled are not the same thing. Grace people without truth are pleasant to be around, but we wonder if they really like us or if they are just trying to be liked.



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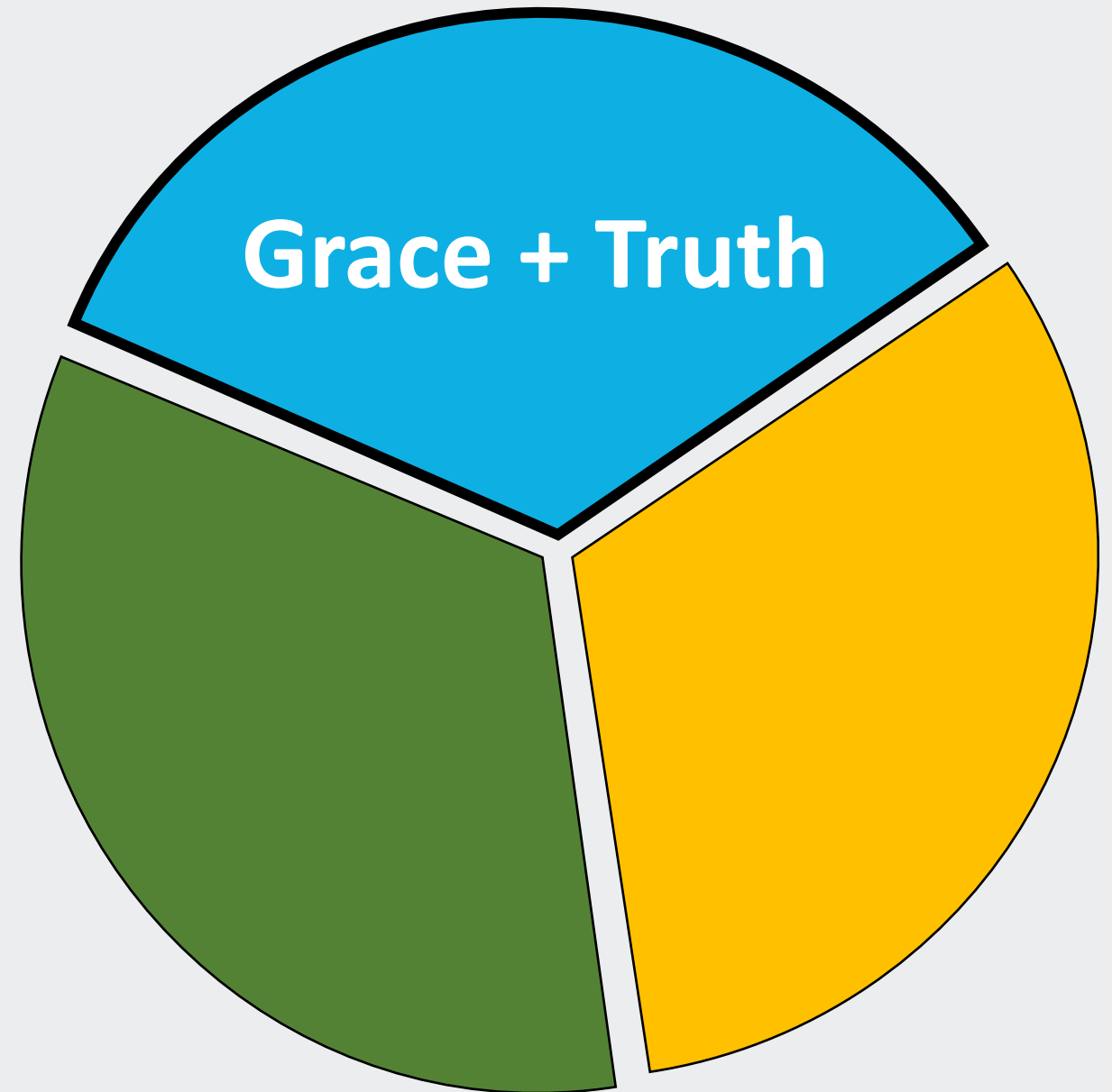
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They are tolerant, but they often do not know the difference between right and wrong. Or they don't care to line up one way or the other. Grace people can be cowardly. They often refuse to make tough decisions in life. They demand nothing from others and get nothing in return. They accept us for who we are, but they never help us become who we should be.

And then there are truth people. Truth people are easy to admire. They have convictions and principles. They believe in right and wrong. They set standards. They speak out against injustice, oppression, and evil. They are articulate and well-spoken. But without grace, telling the truth can become an excuse for belligerence. Truth people without grace are loyal to their cause, but we wonder if they are really loyal to us.



They want to change us and make us better, but they don't allow for mistakes. They are quick to cast judgment on others. They make difficult decisions, but they also make life difficult for others and for themselves. They can be slow to forgive. They inspire us with their courage, but turn us off with their intimidation.

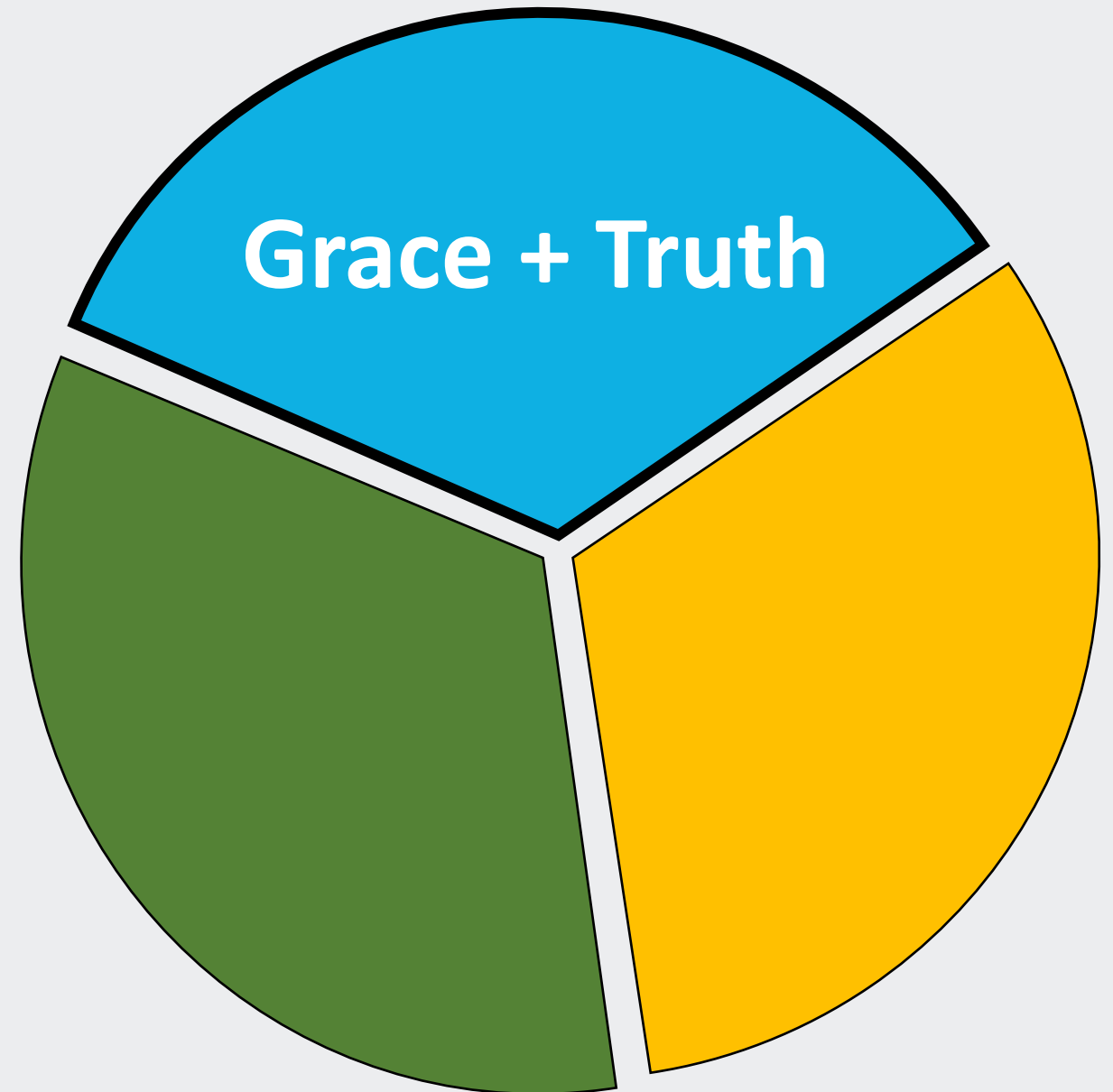
If you are a grace person you are most concerned about being loved.

If you are a truth person you are most concerned about being right even if it means being unloved.

Both have their dangers.

Something is wrong if everyone hates you, and something is probably just as wrong if everyone loves you.

Kevin DeYoung...The Gospel Coalition



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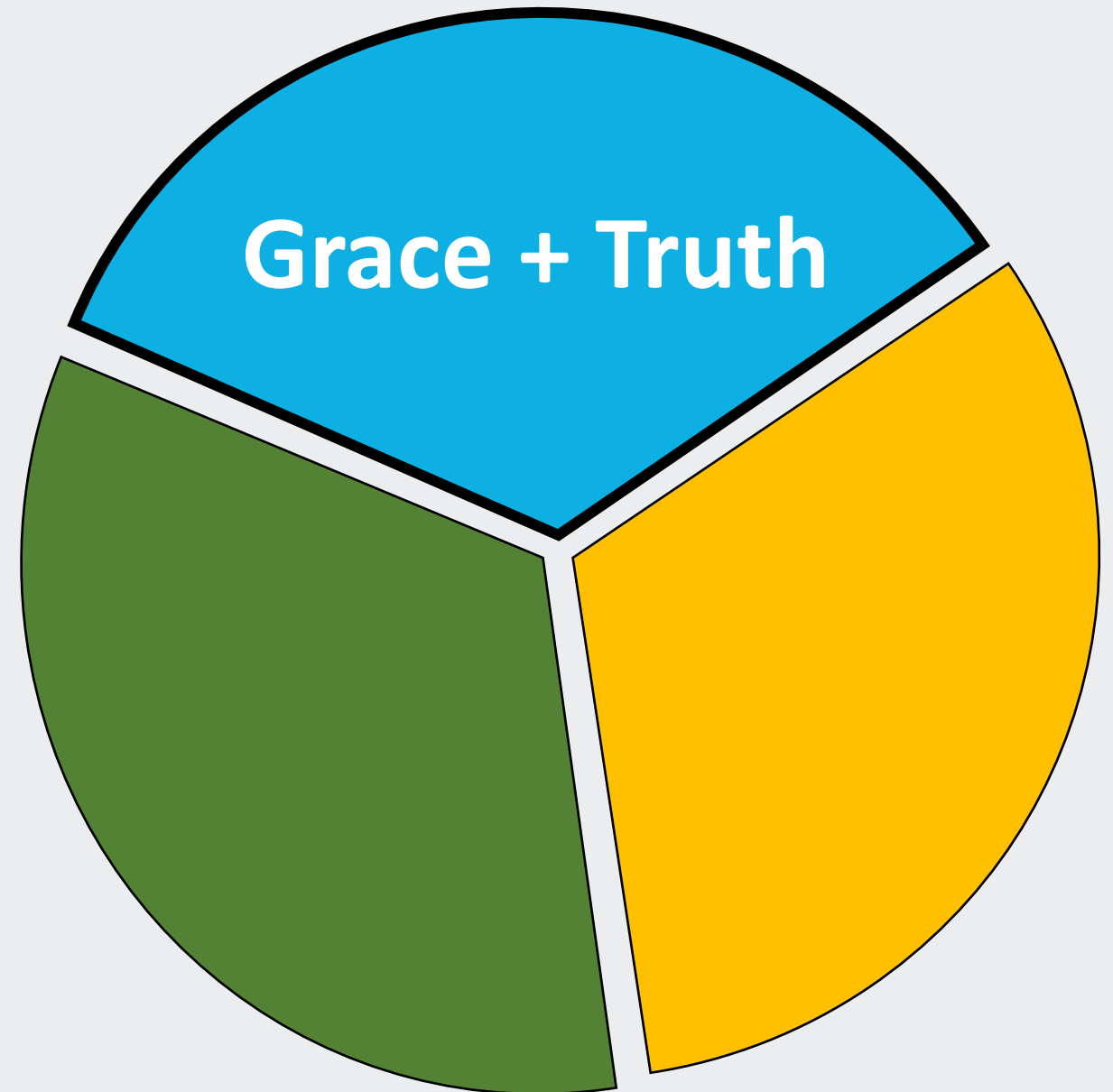
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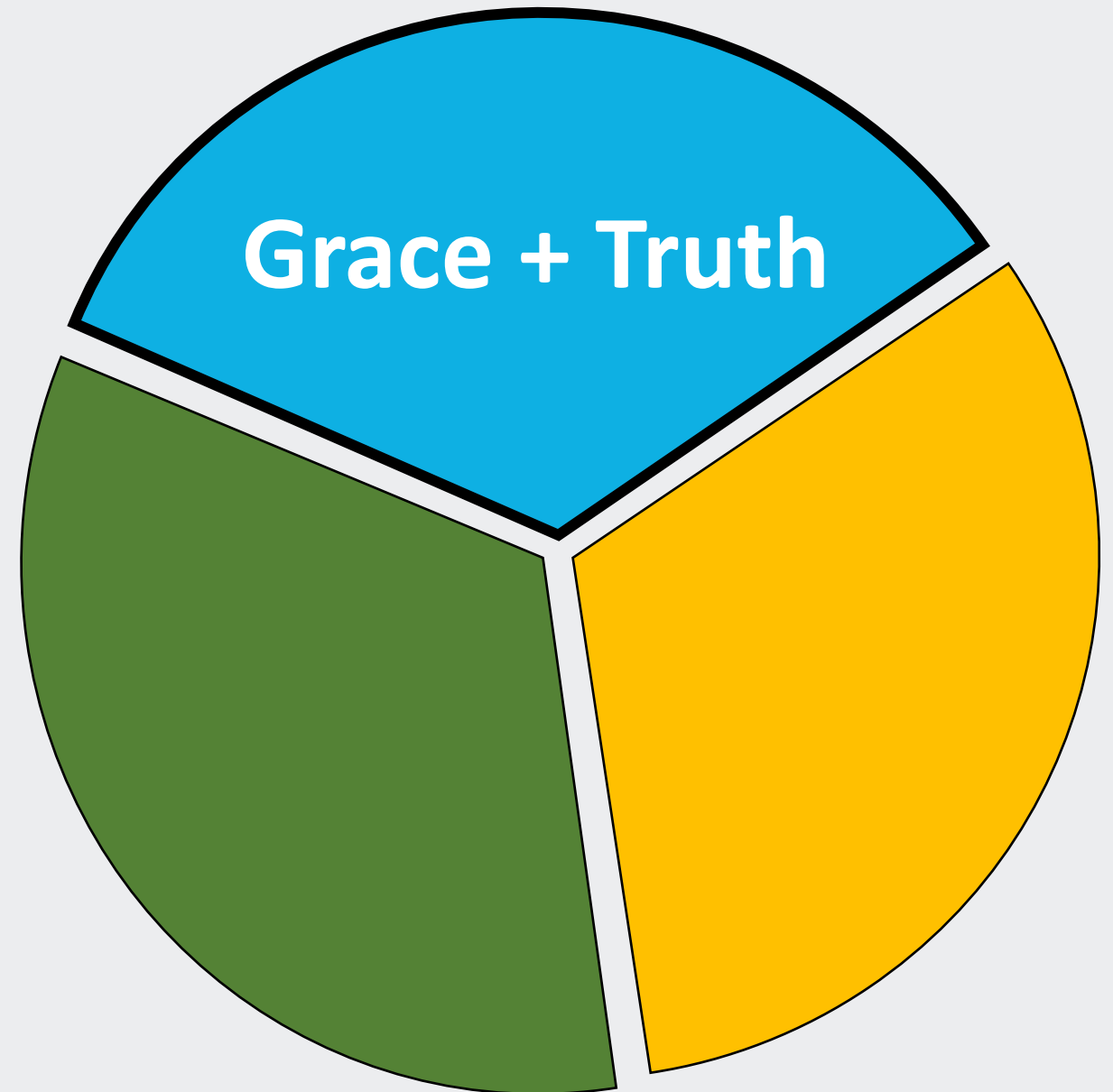
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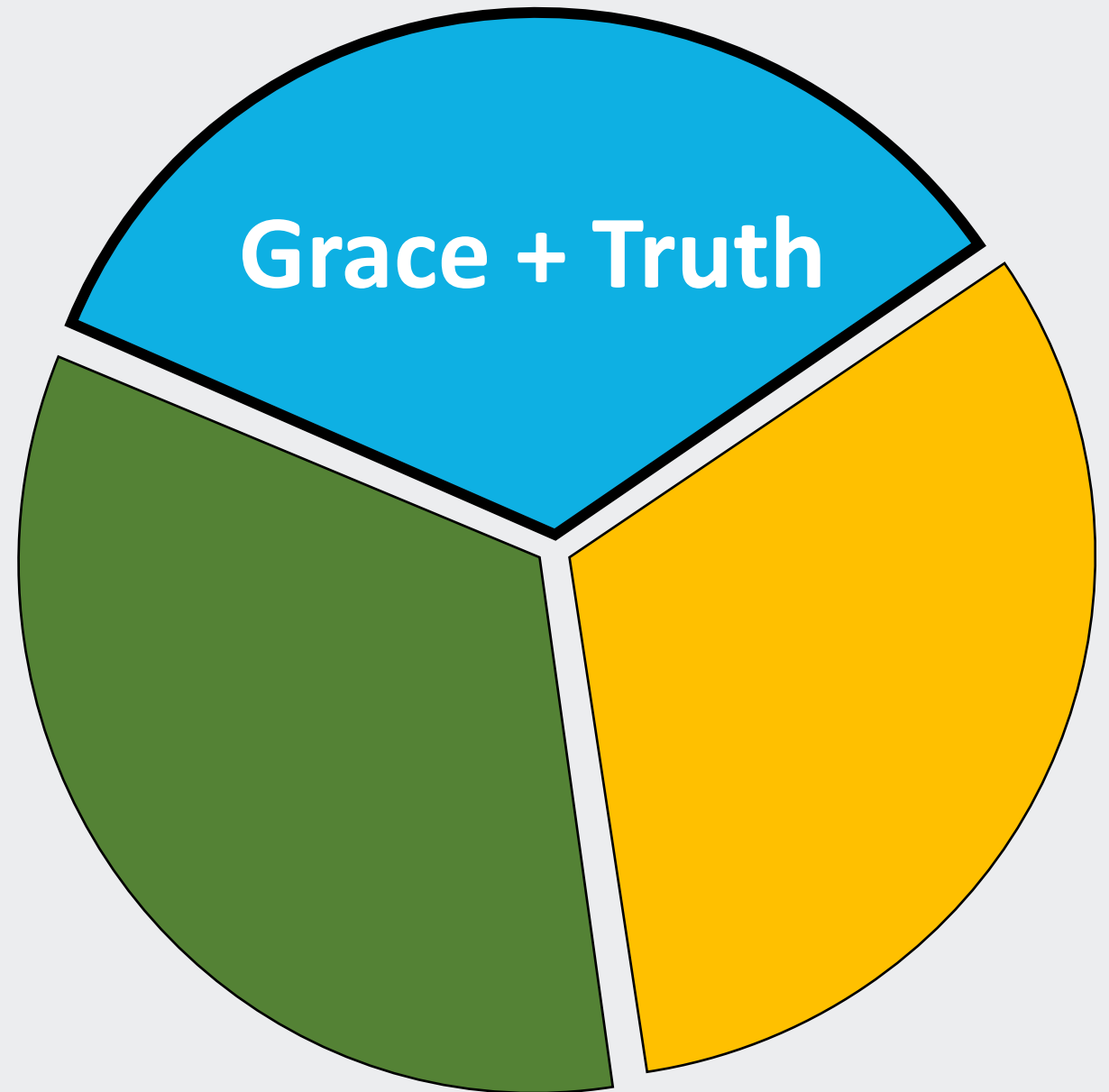
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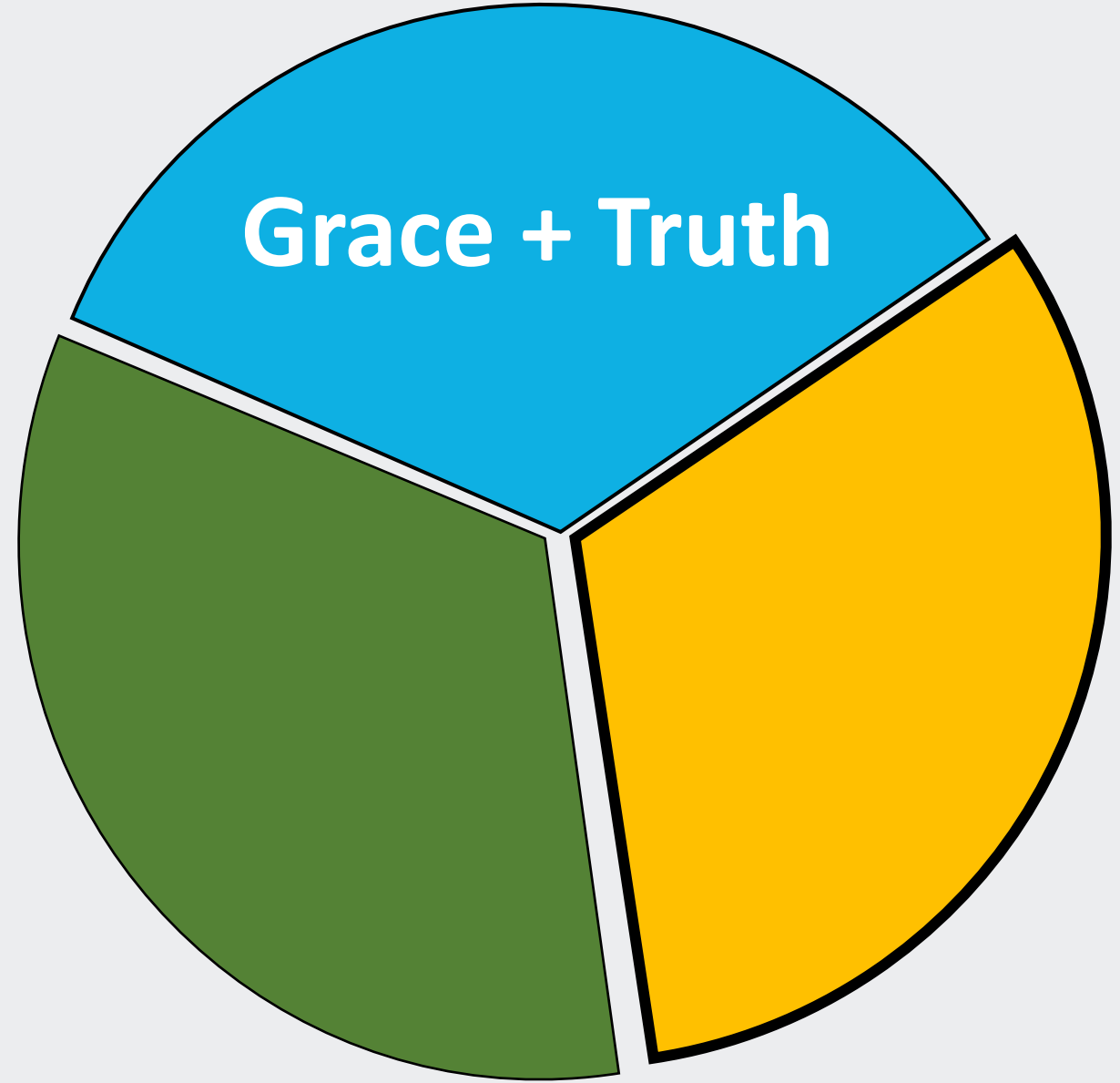
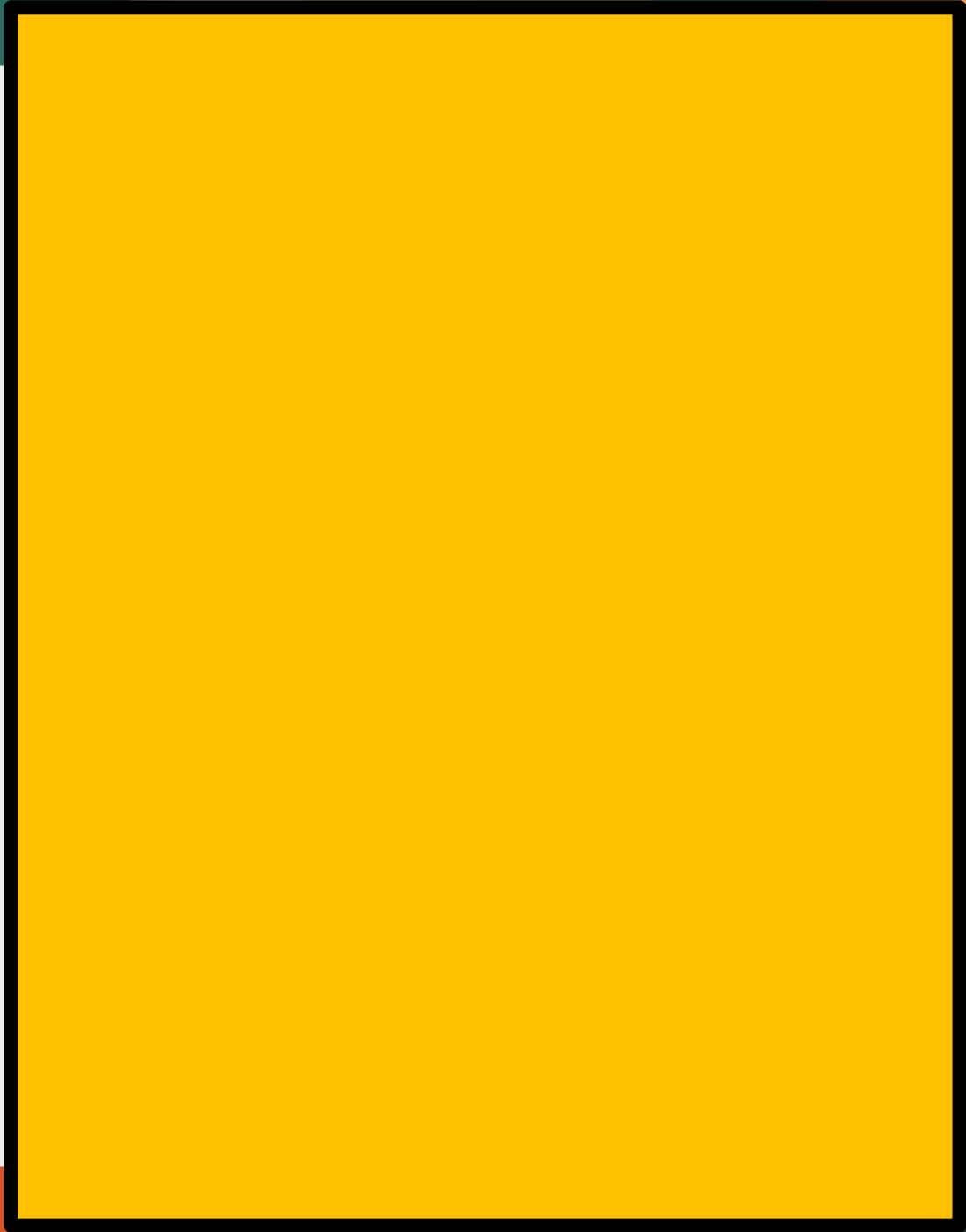
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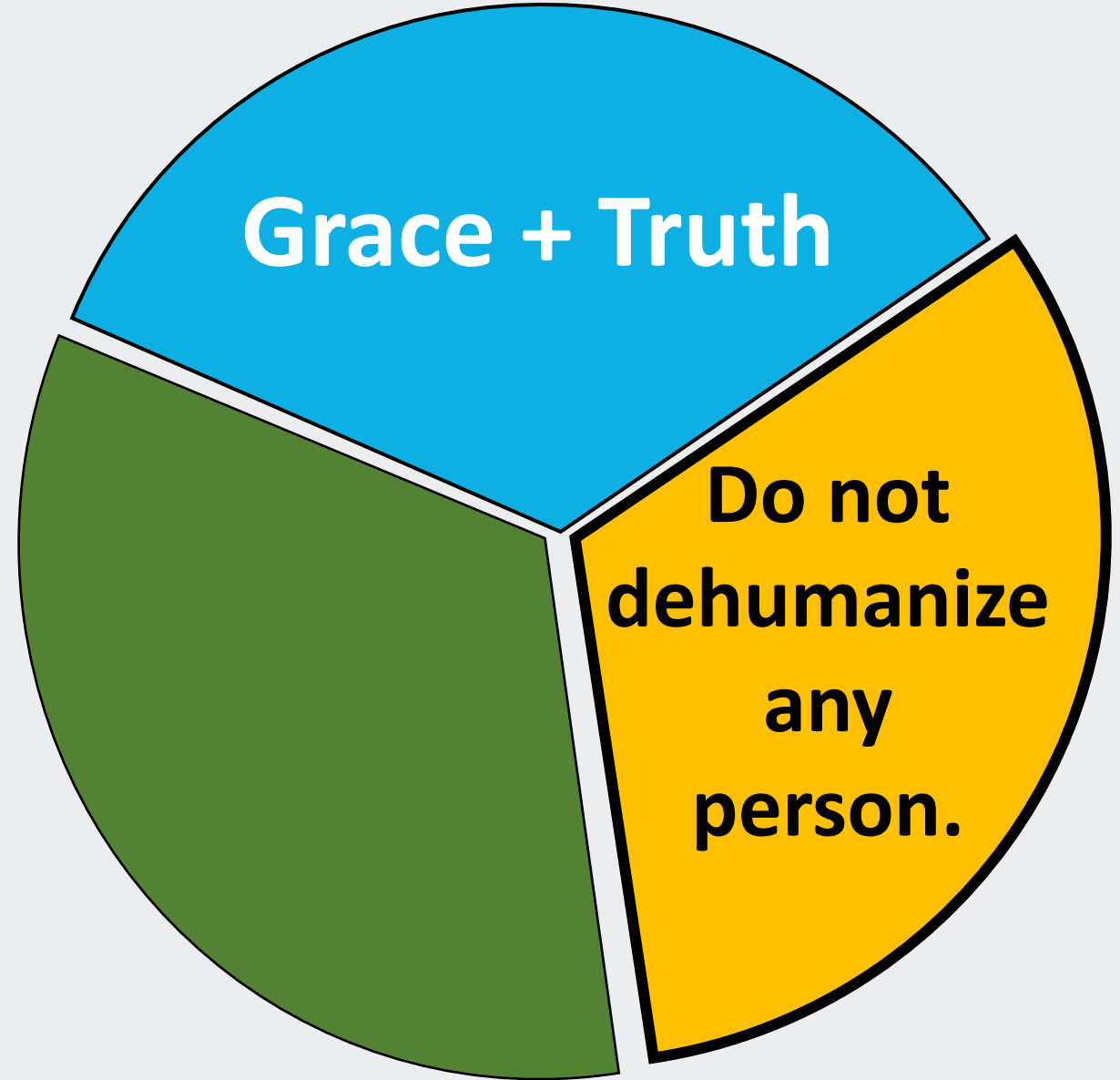
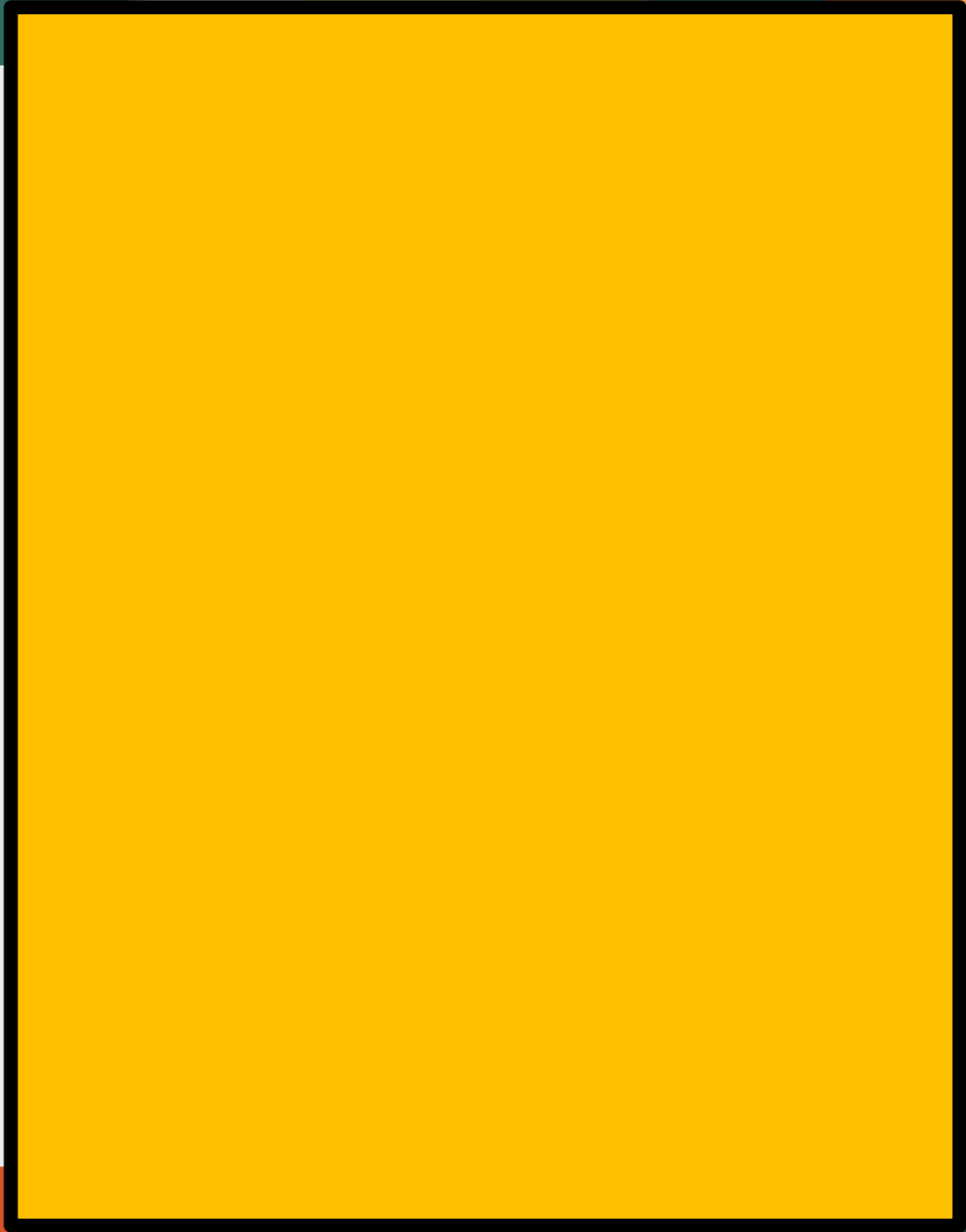
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Grace + Truth

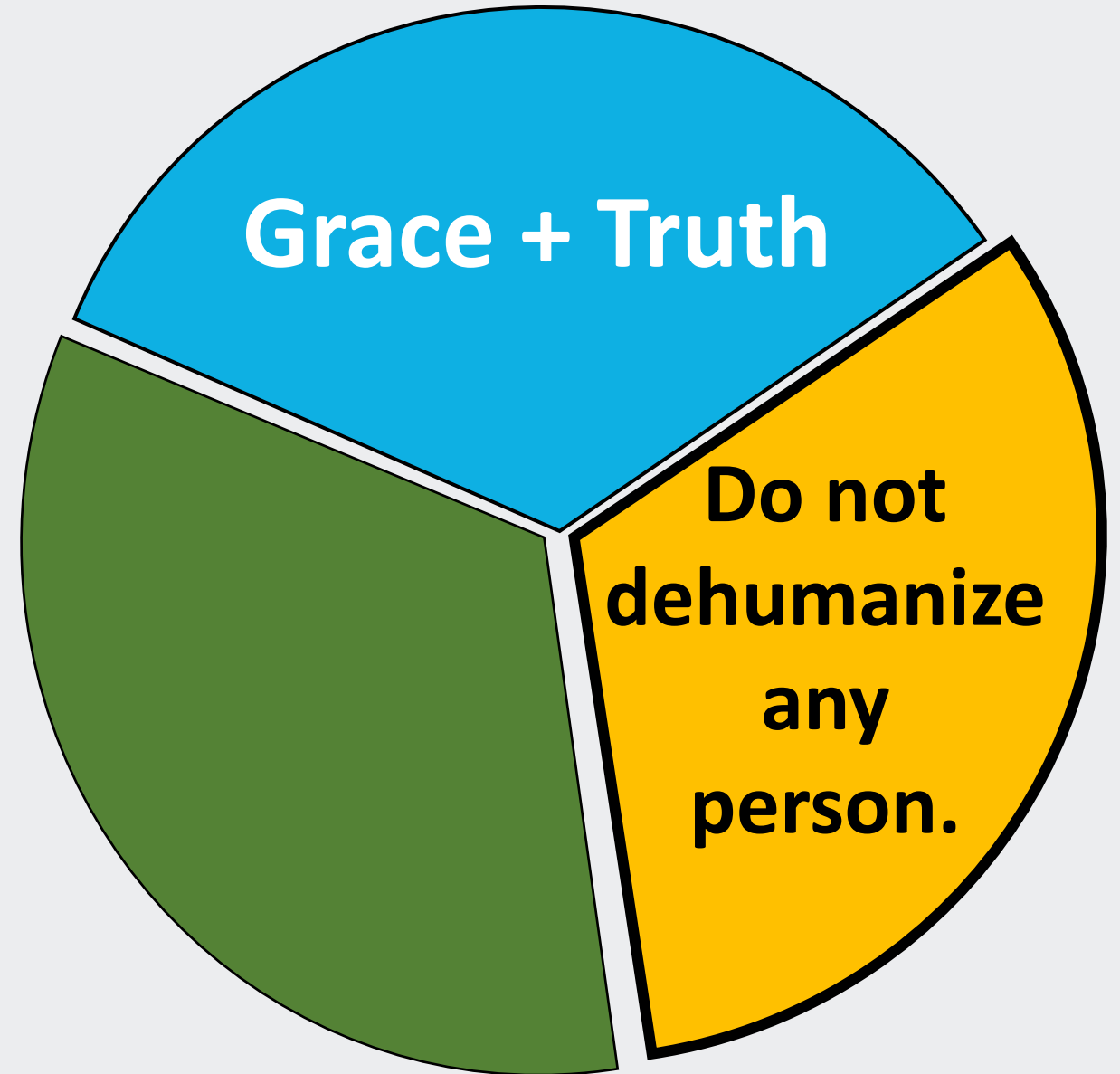




Matthew 5

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, '**You fool!**' will be liable to the hell of fire.



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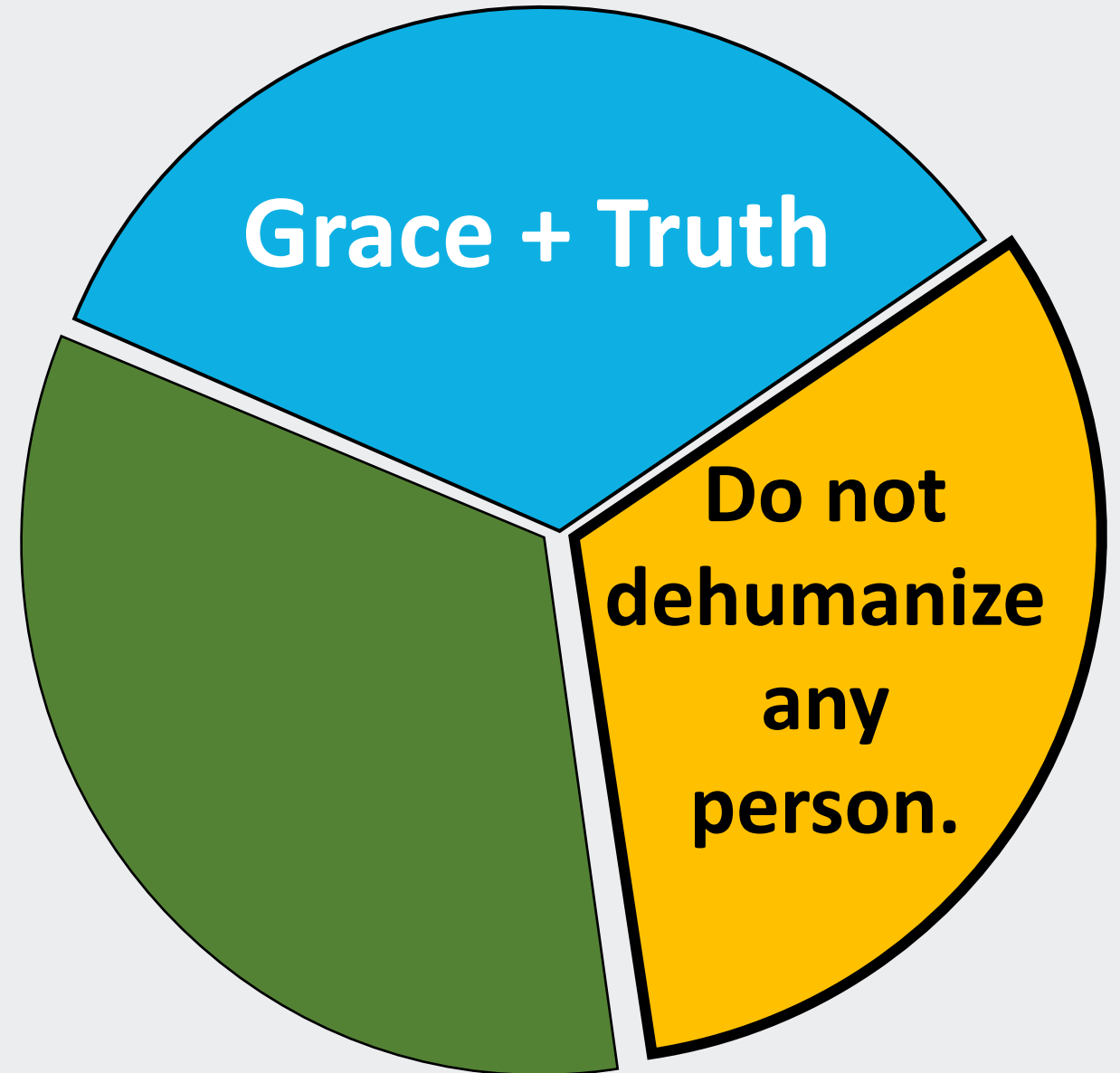
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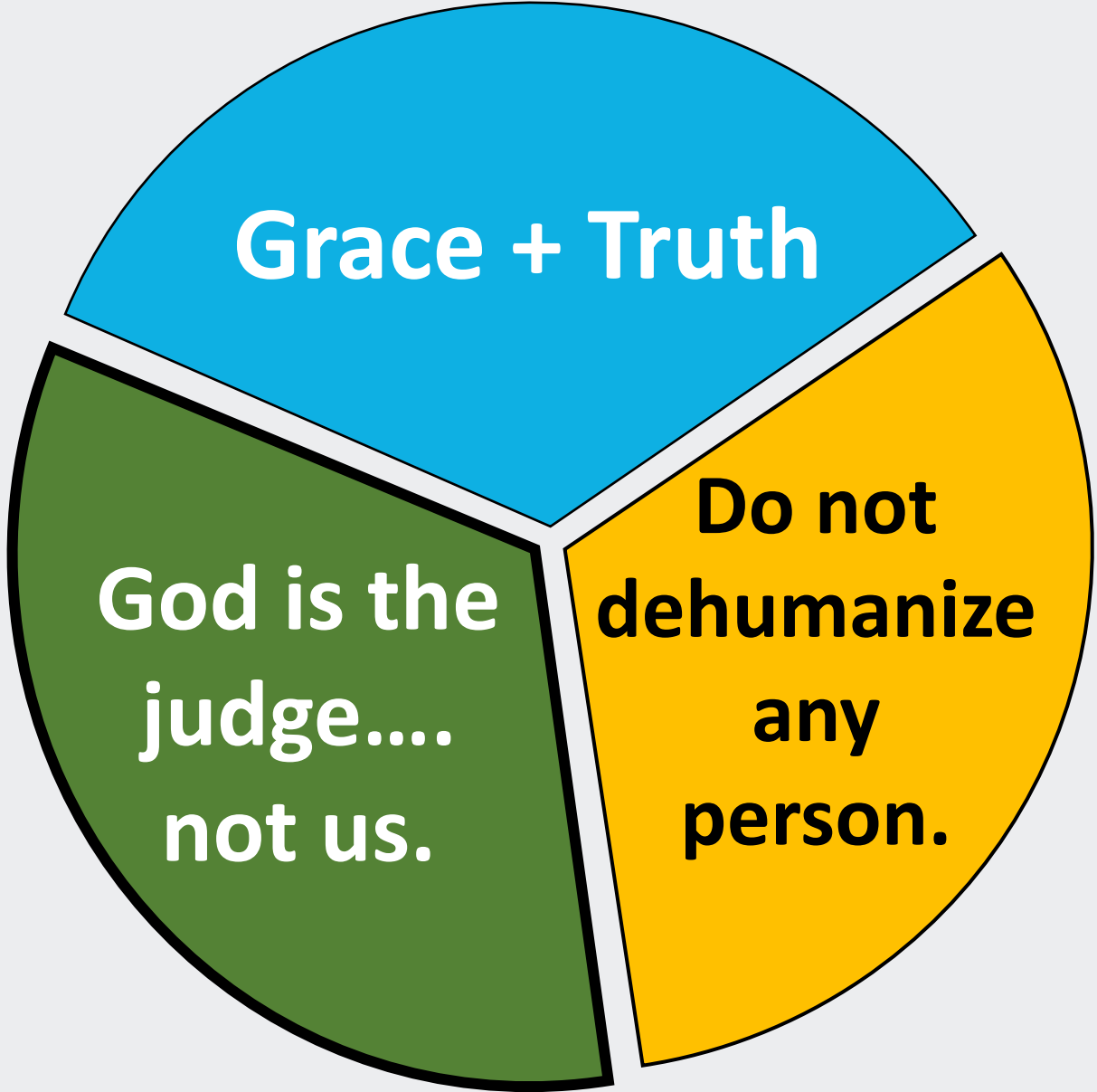
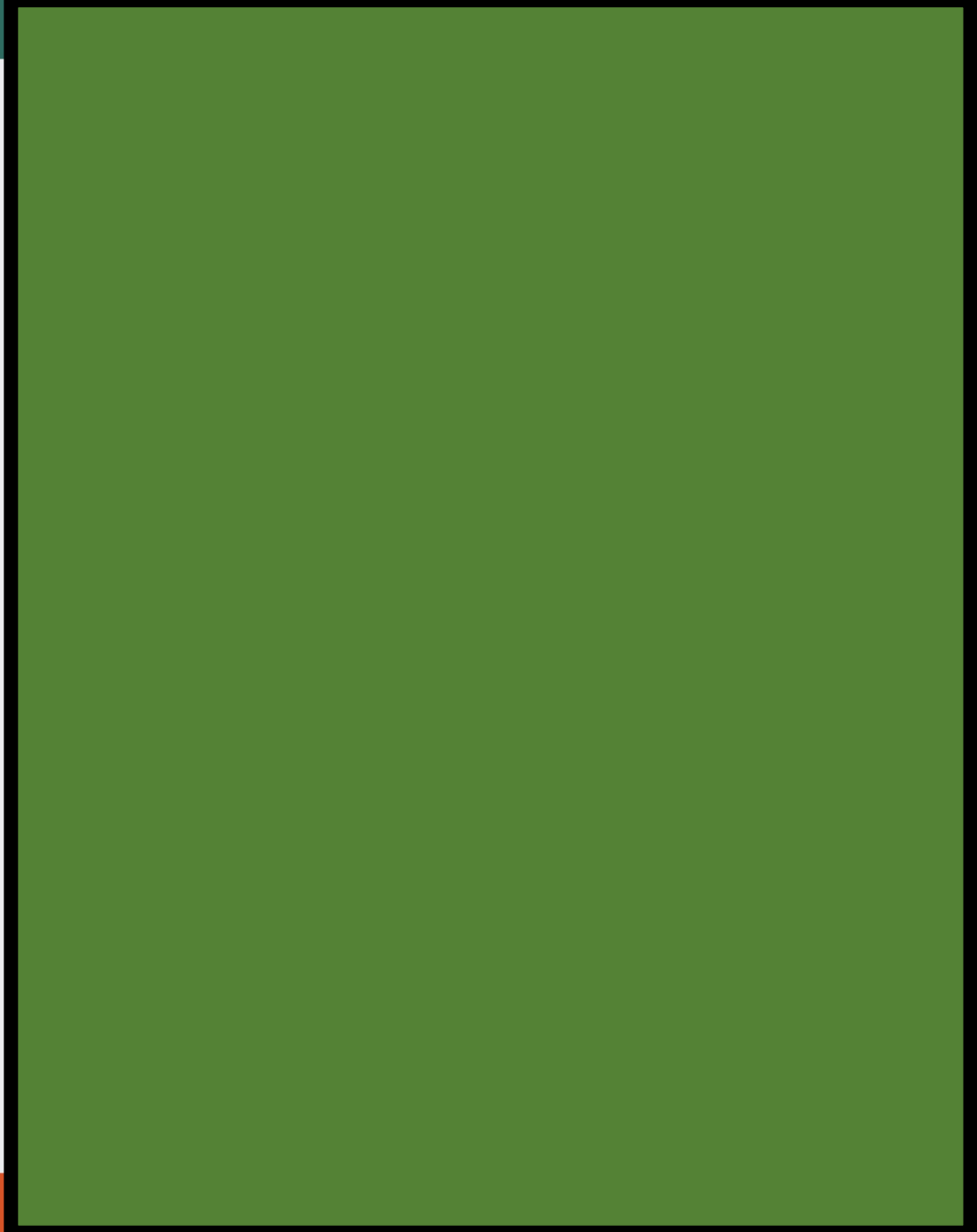
Raca

"empty headed"

"good for nothing"

...expresses contempt for their very existence, their human value.





Grace + Truth

God is the
judge....
not us.

Do not
dehumanize
any
person.

Matthew 7

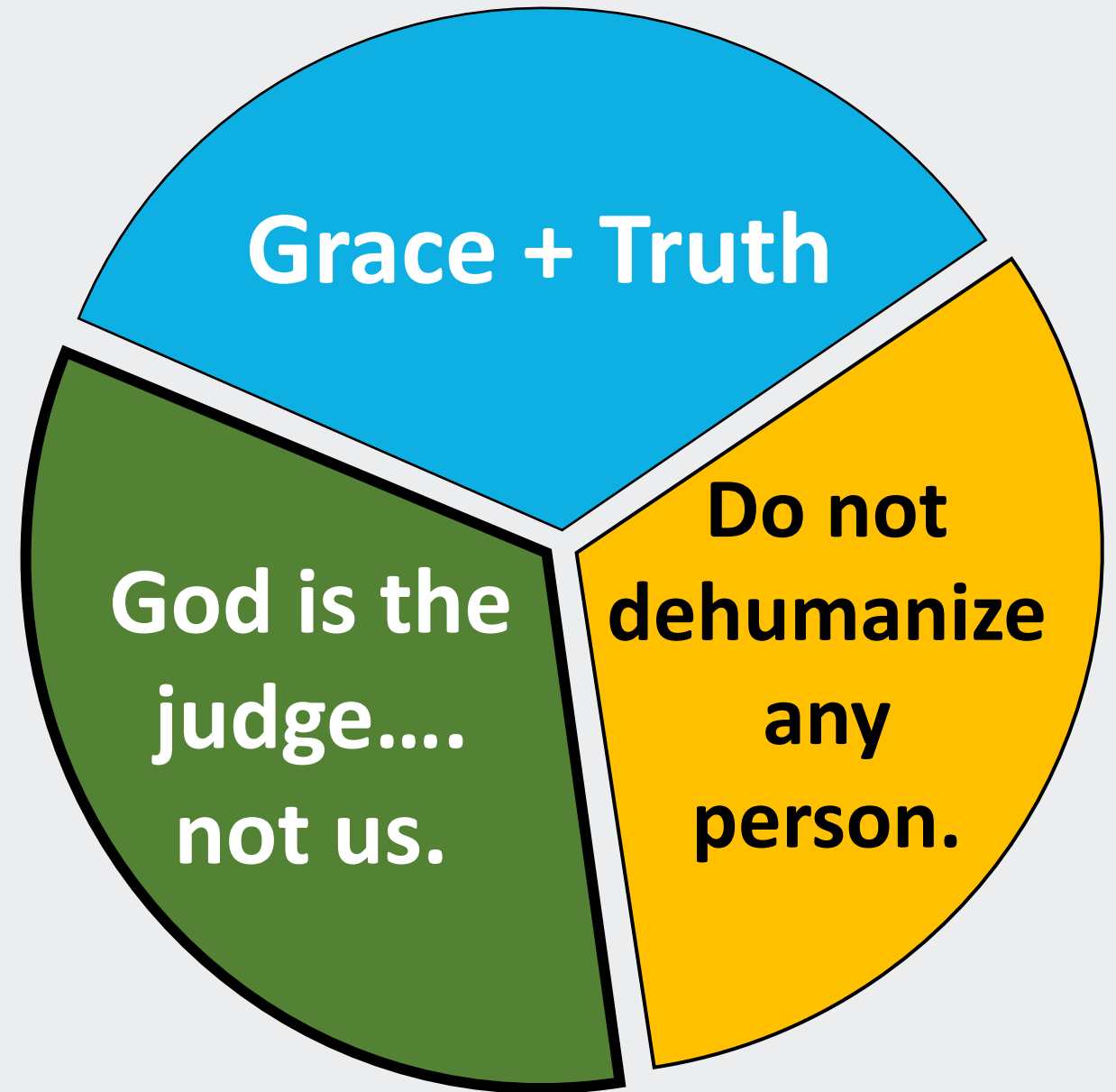
1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, '*Let me take the speck out of your eye,*' when there is the log in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.



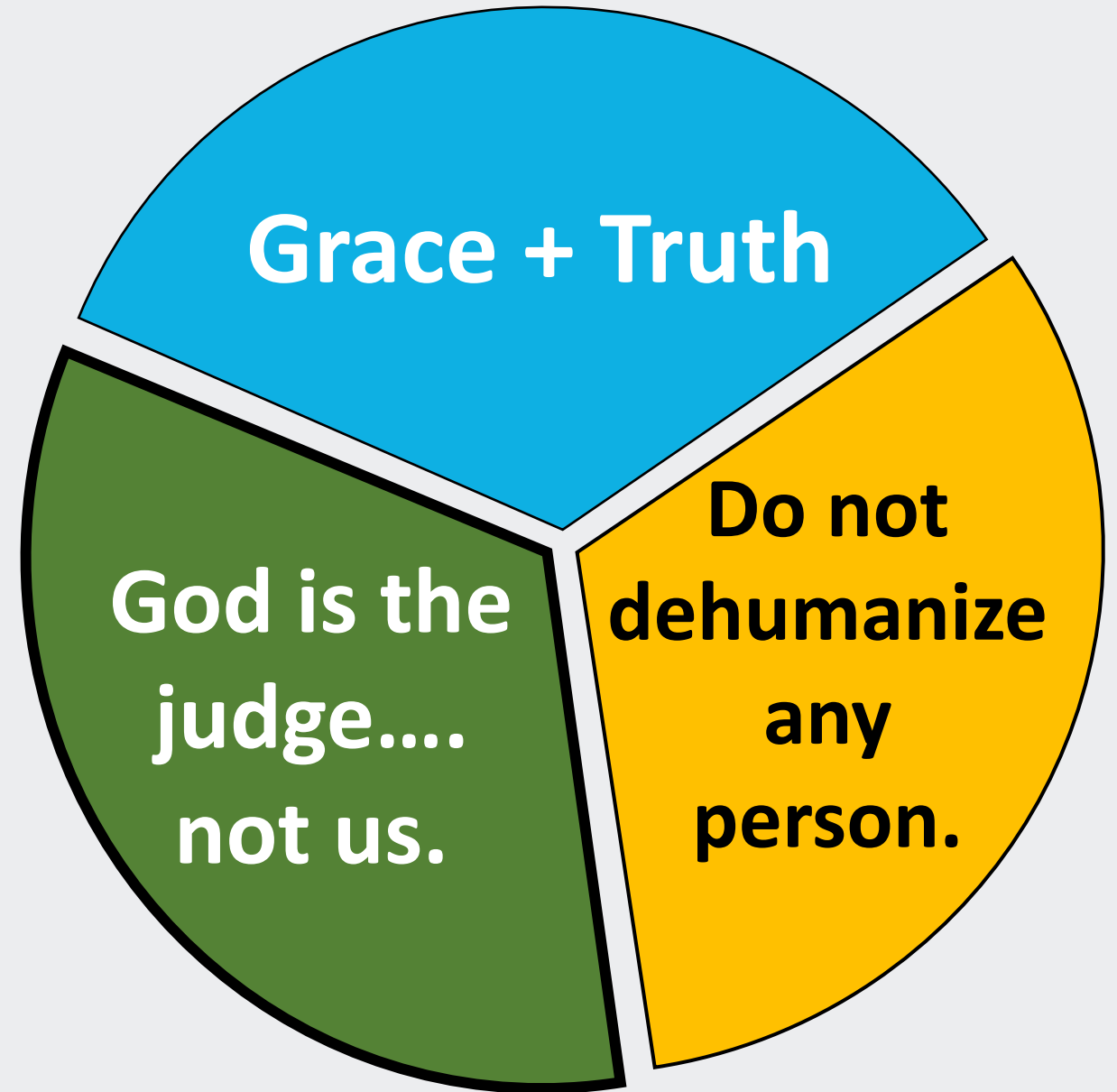
Romans 2

1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

3 Do you suppose, O man--you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself--that you will escape the judgment of God?

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

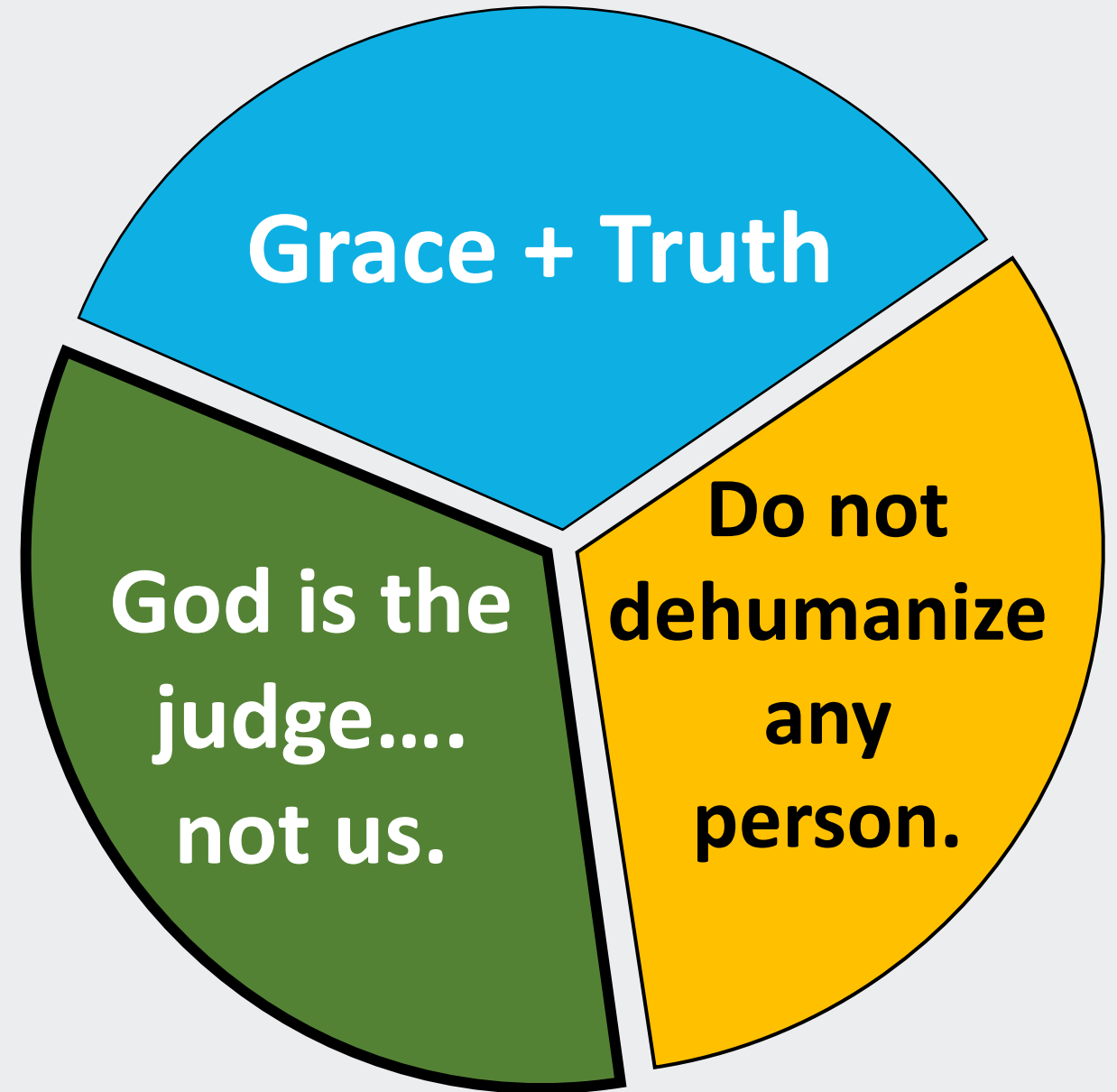


5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

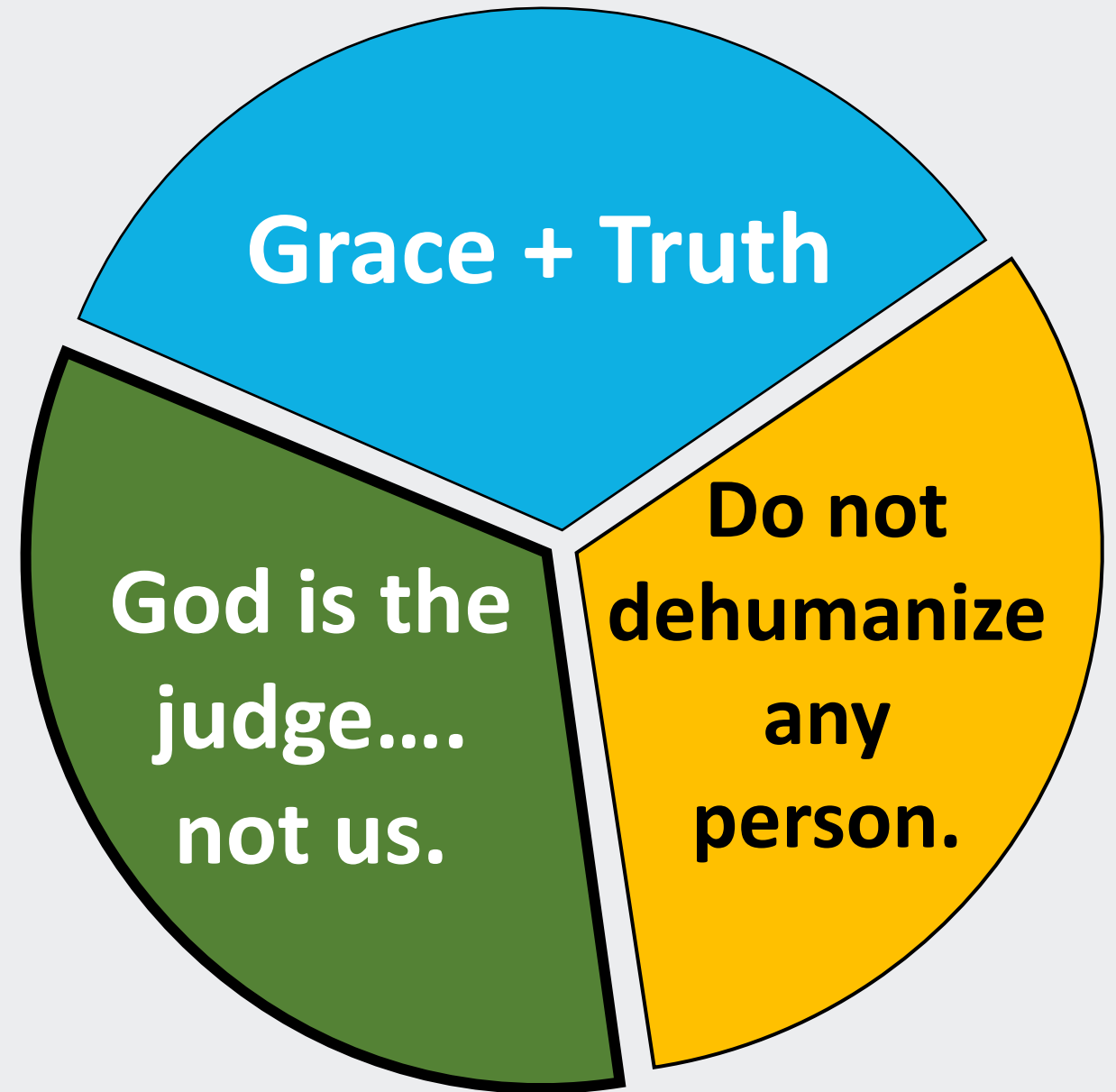
6 He will render to each one according to his works:

7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

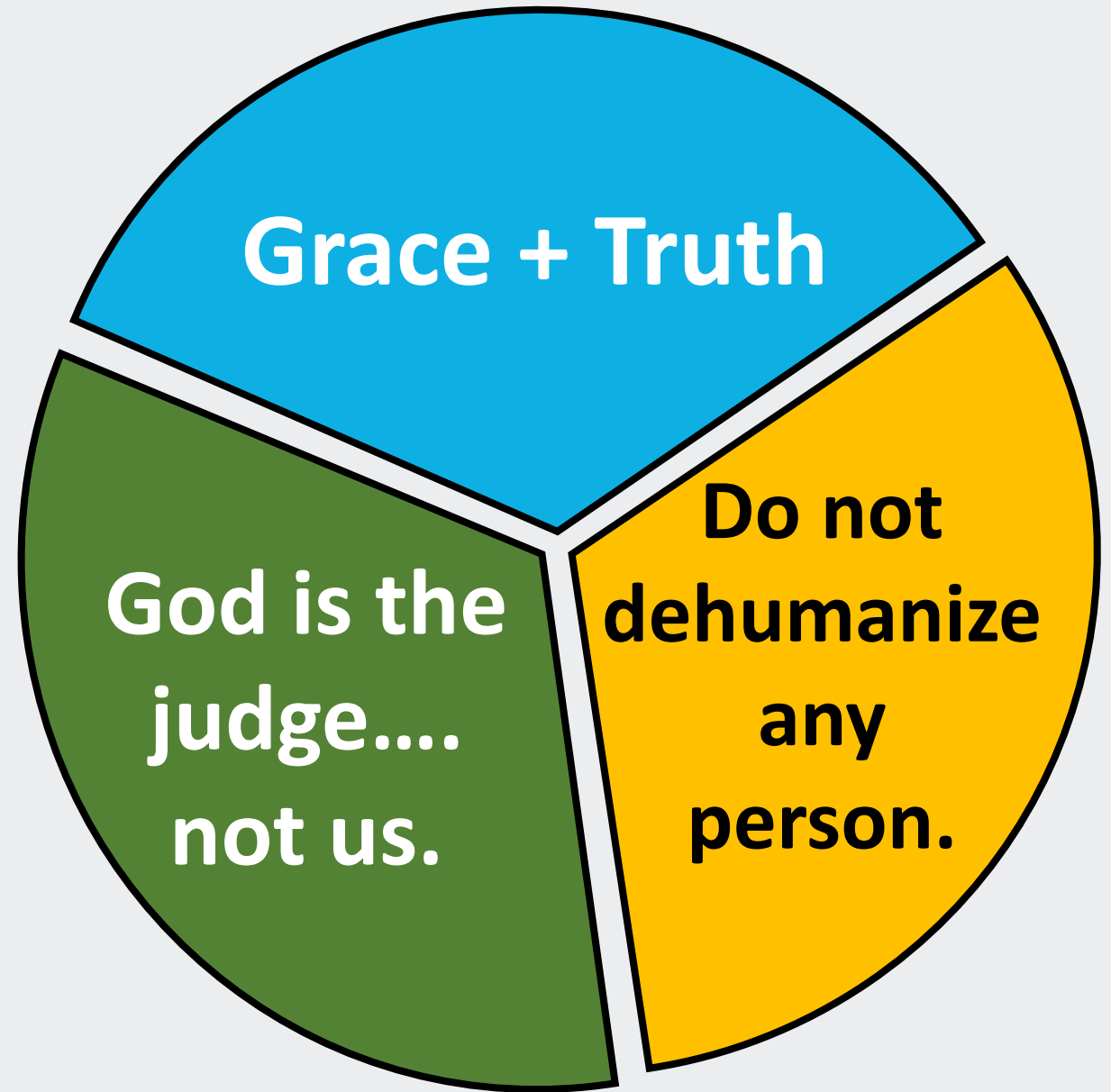
8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.



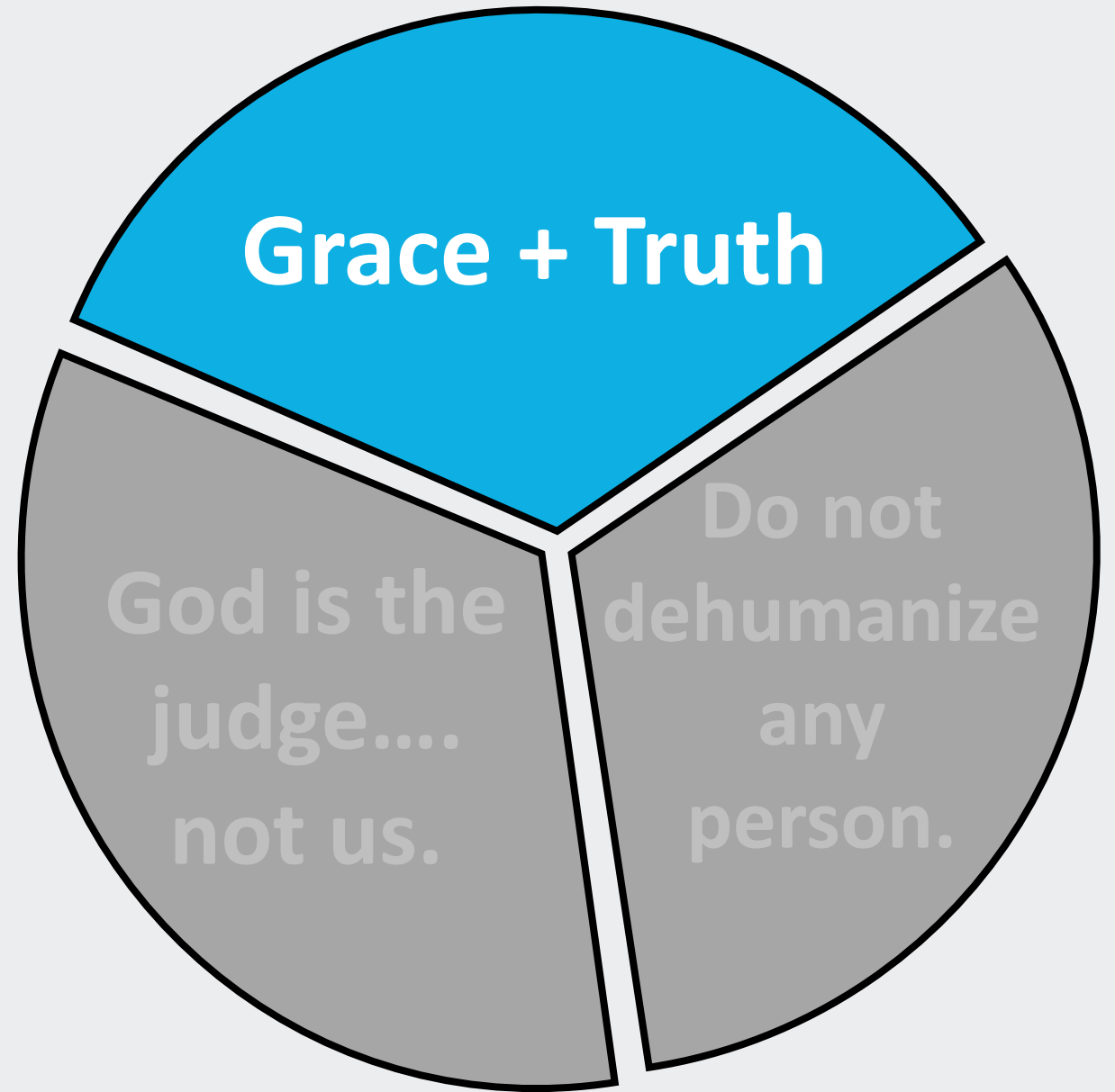
9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,
10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.
11 For God shows no partiality.



So...therefore...what now?

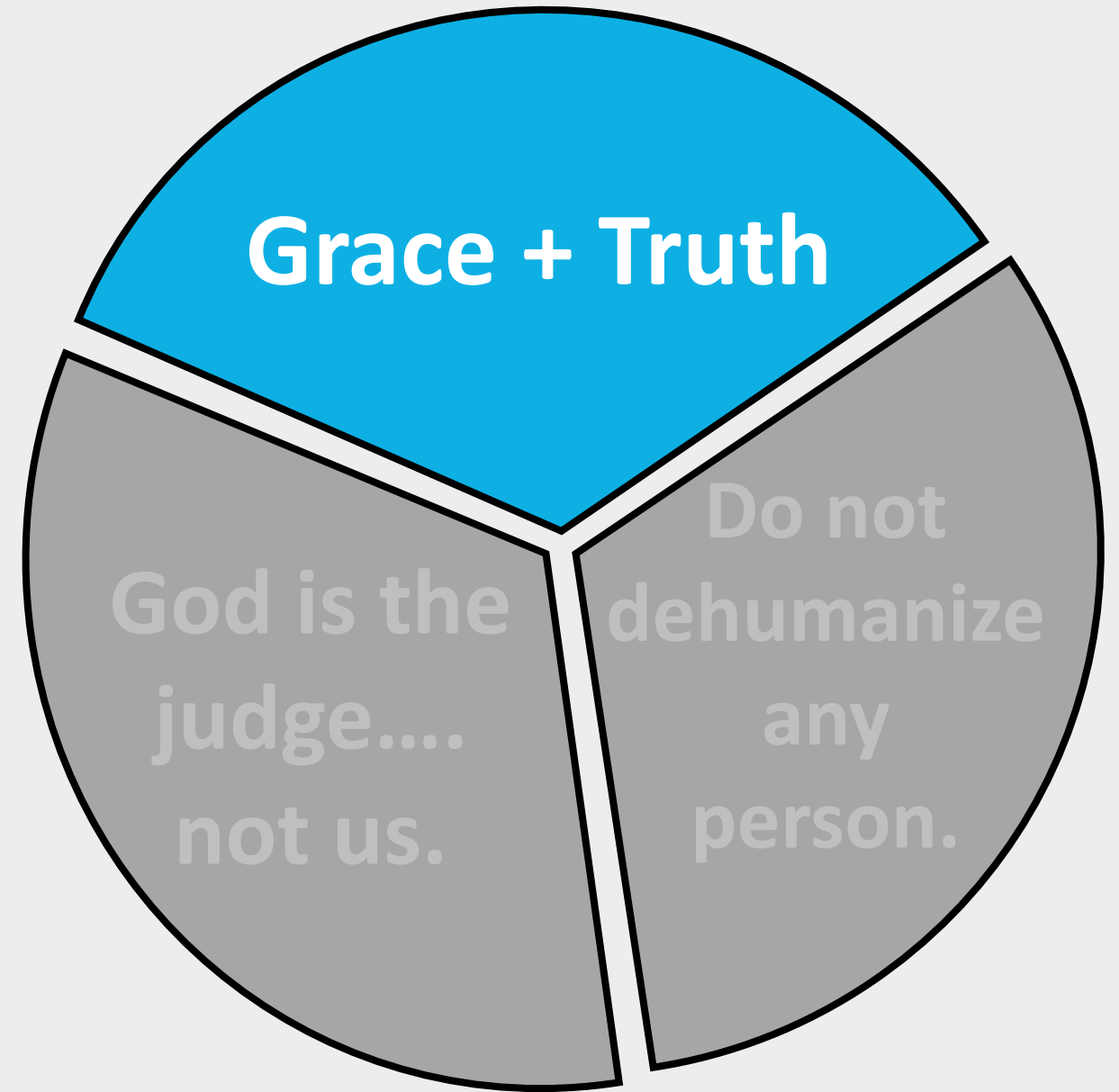


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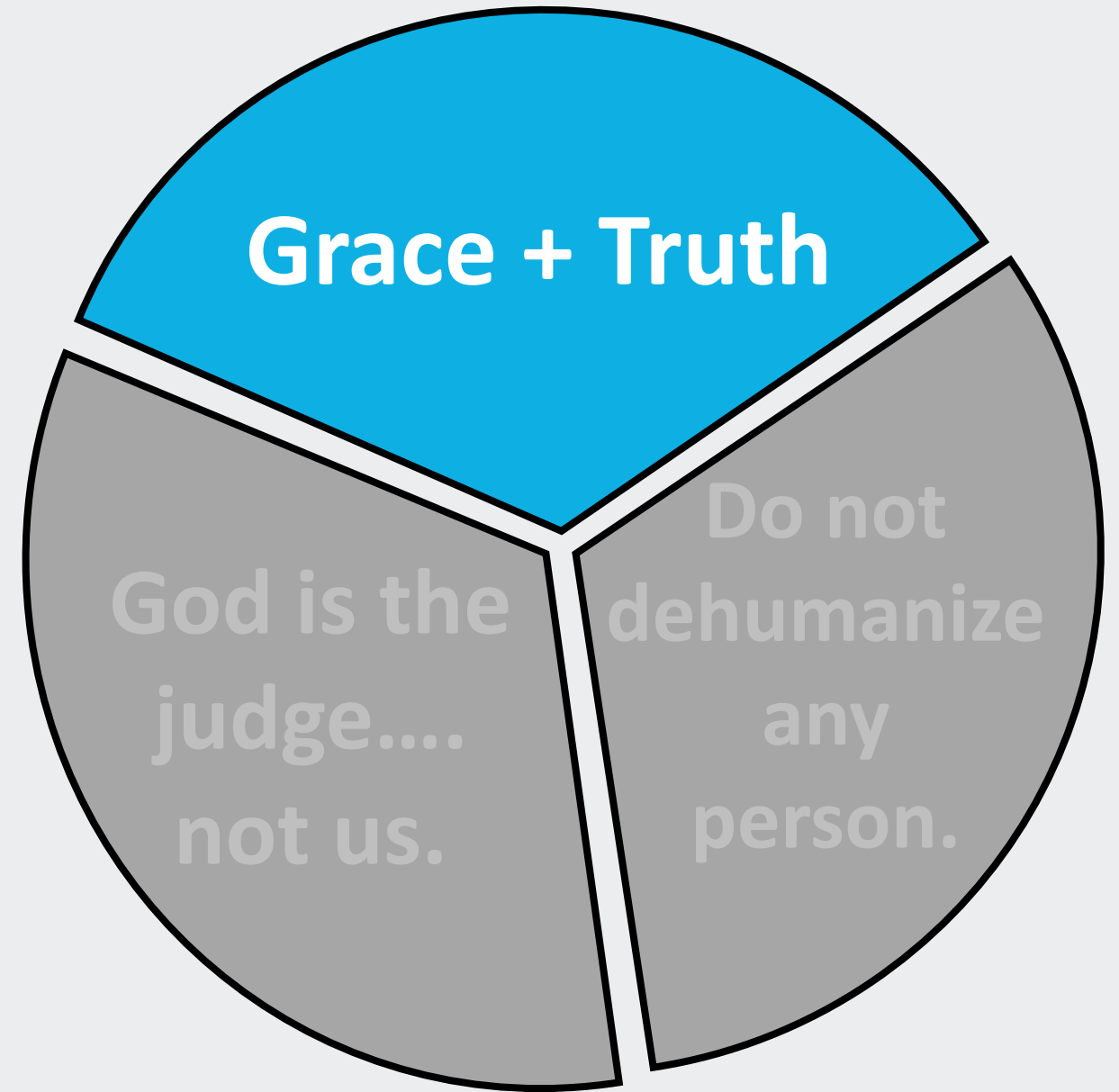
Which way do you lean?



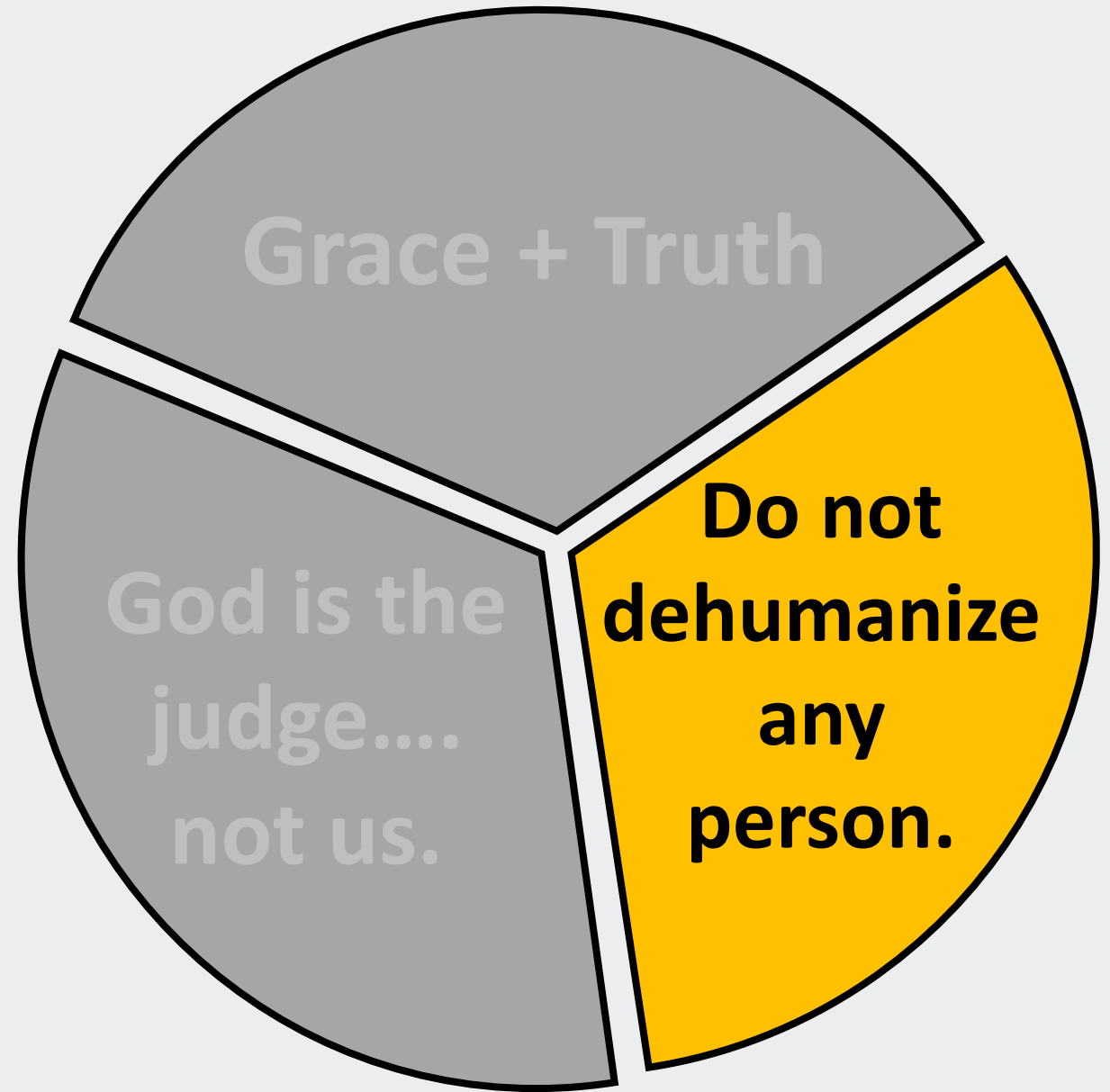
So...therefore...what now?

Which way do you lean?

What can you do to be a more integrated person for the good of those you interact with and out of reverence for Christ?

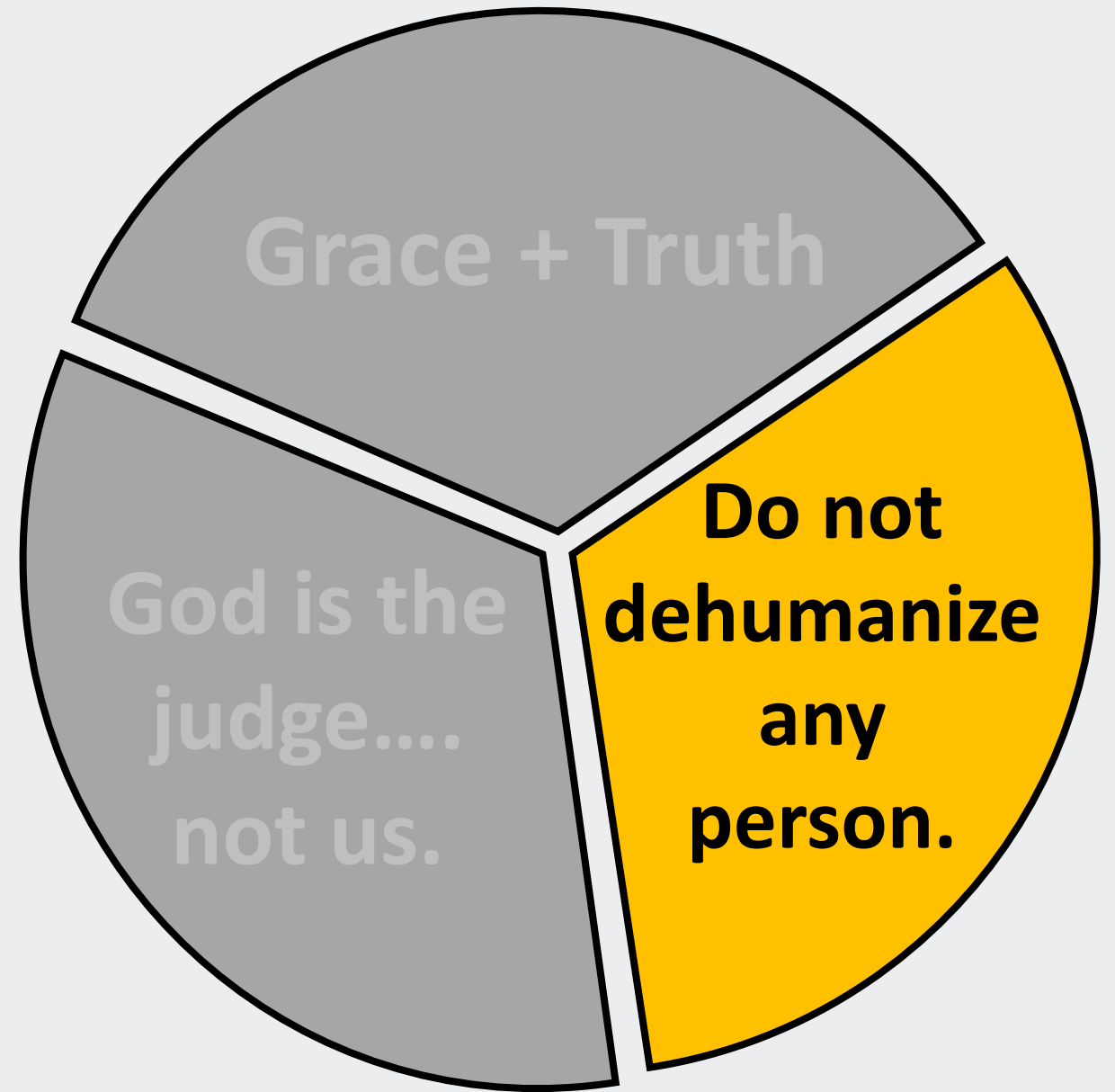


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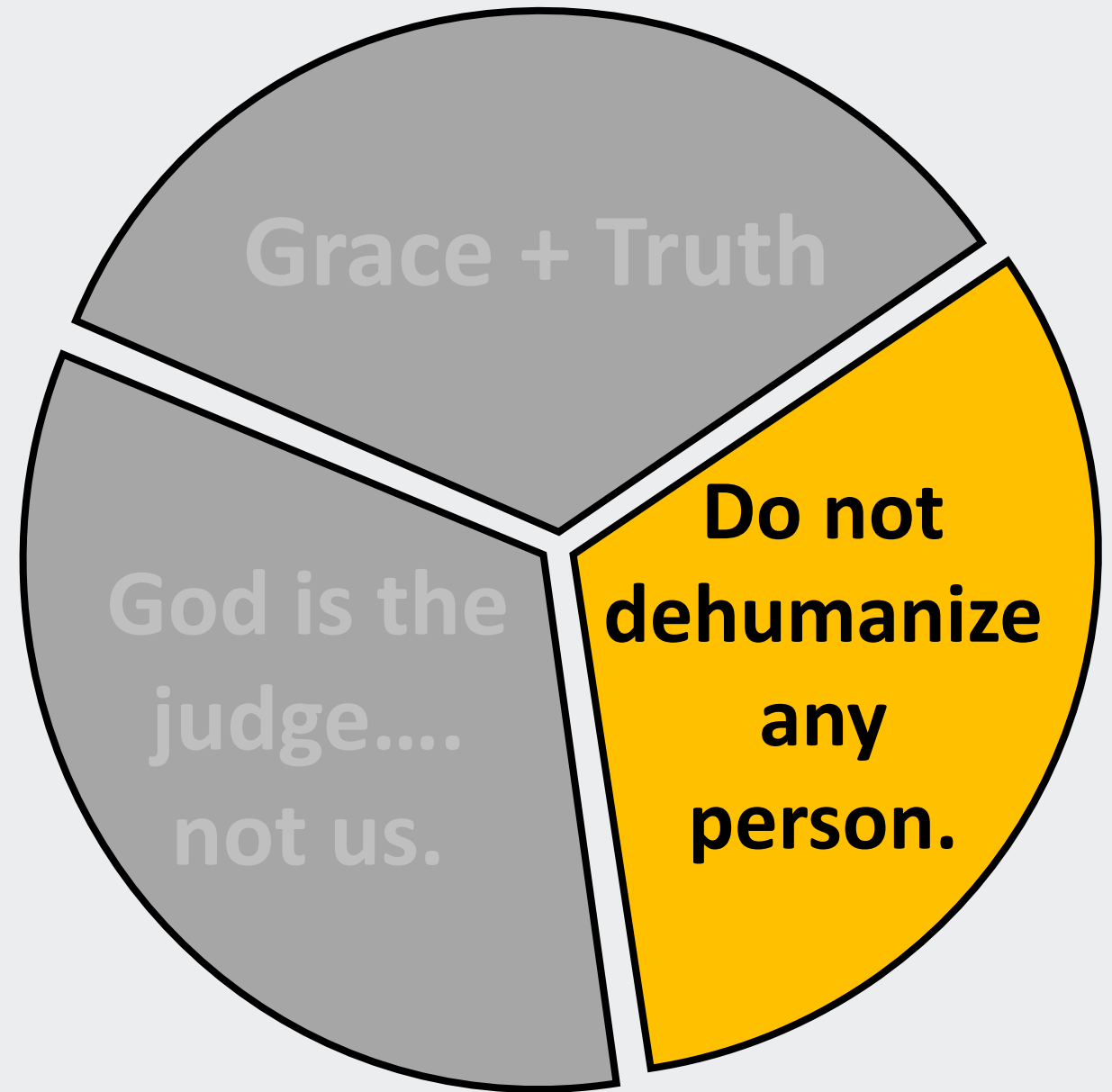
Who have you devalued,
degraded, demeaned or
dehumanized that you
need to change your heart
about?



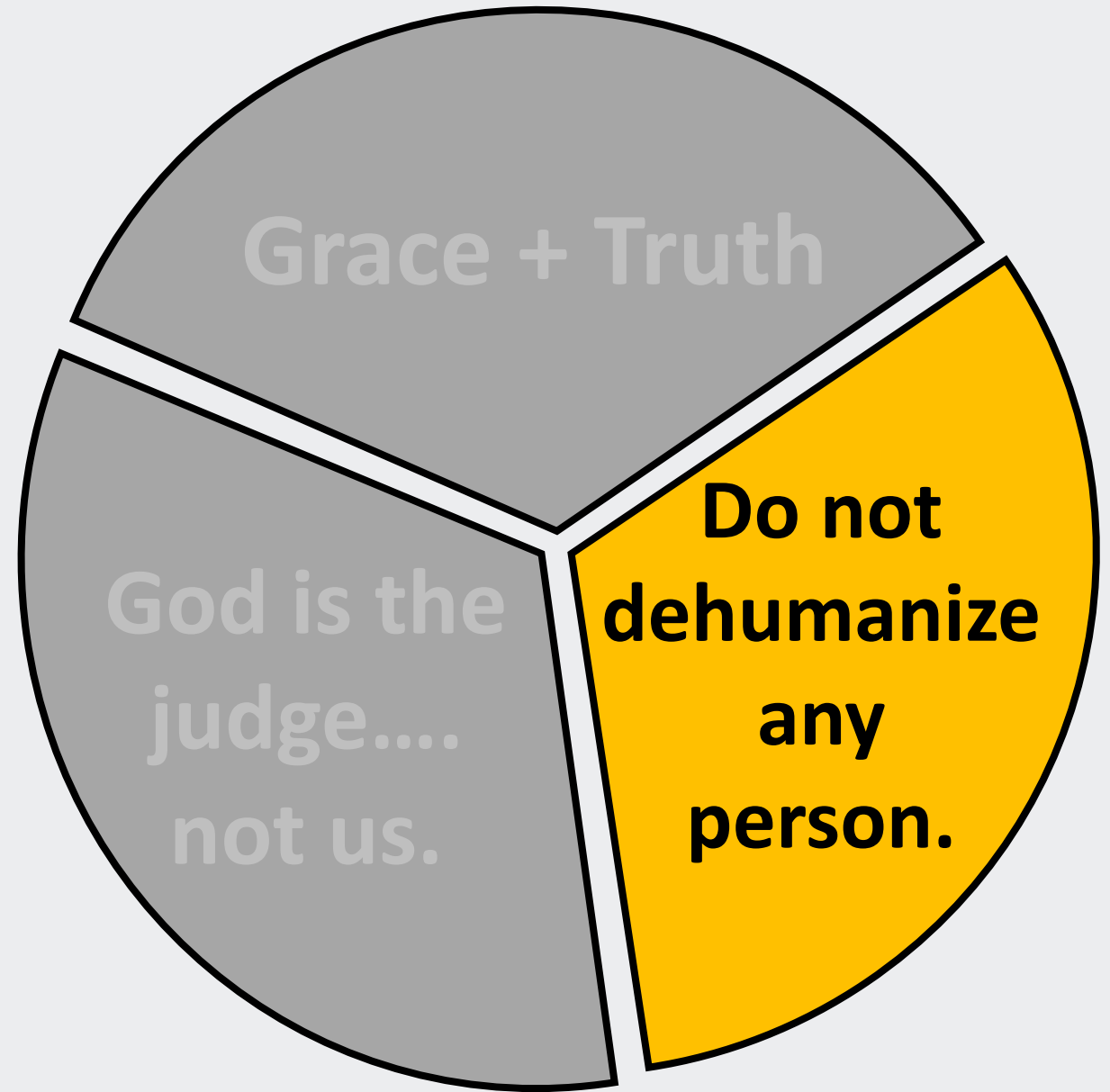
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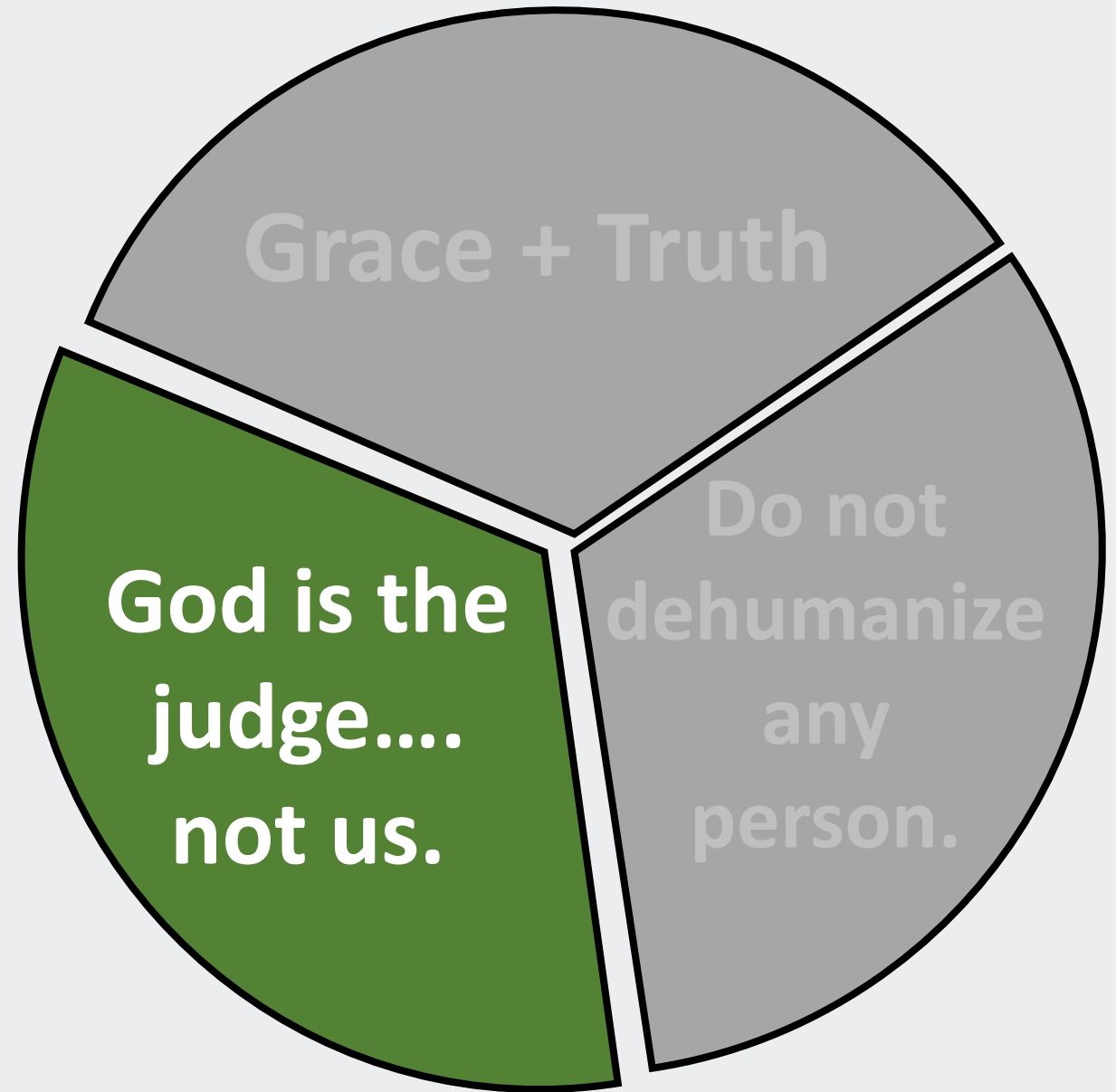
Do you need to go to them
and confess your sin?



So...therefore...what now?

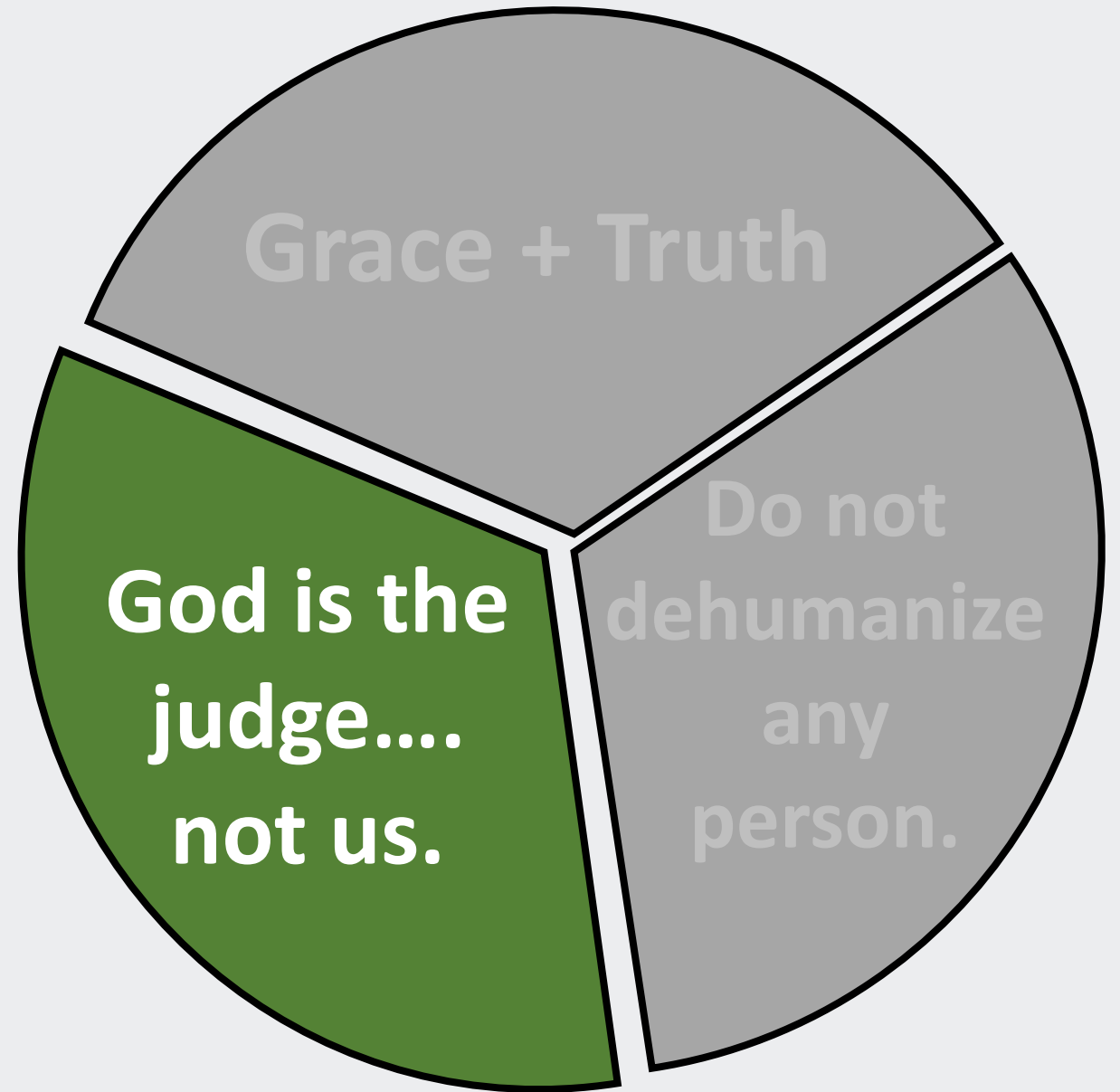


So...therefore...what now?



So....therefore....what now?

Who have you condemned
and judged with your
thoughts and or actions?



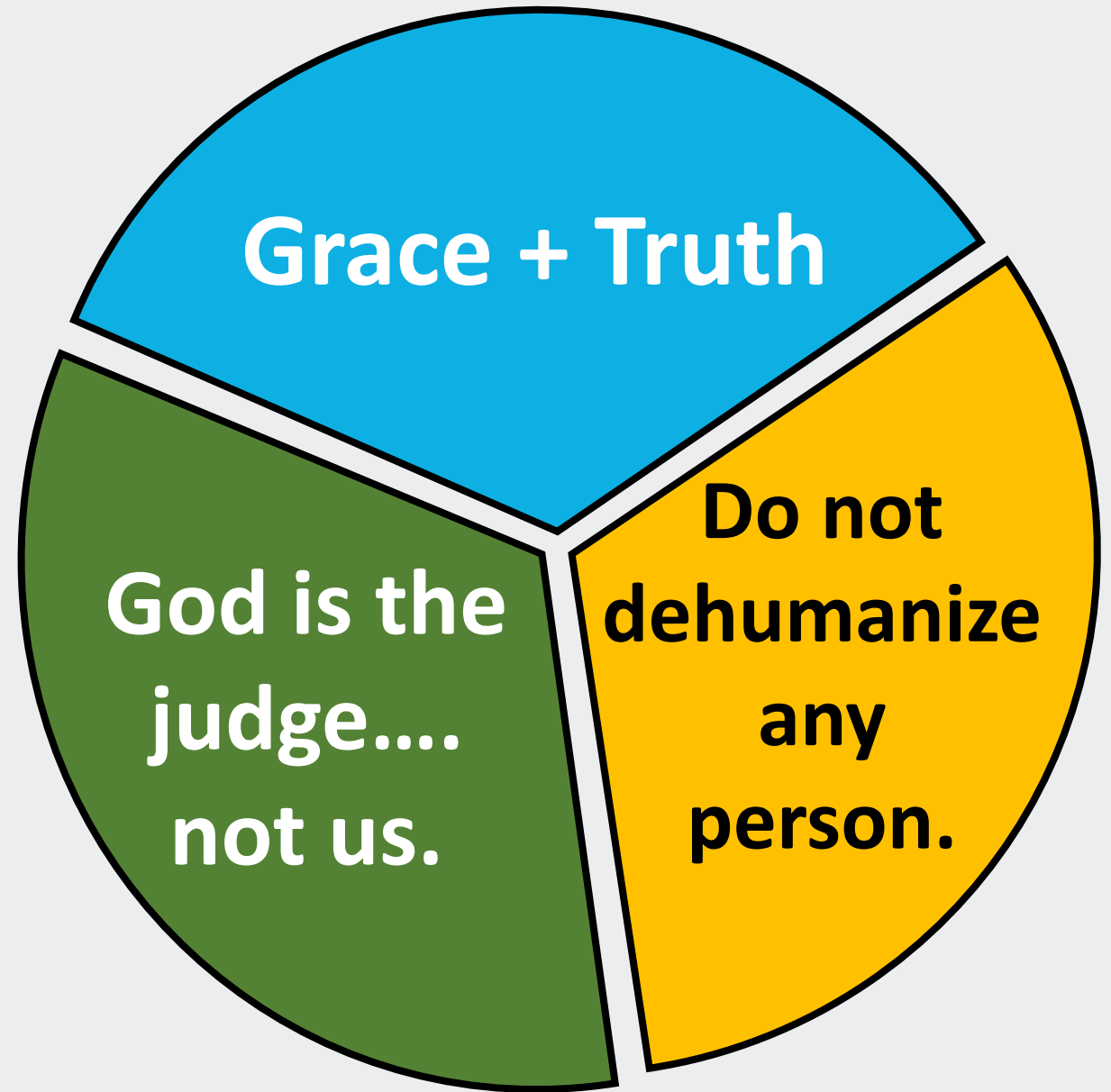
So....therefore....what now?

Who have you condemned
and judged with your
thoughts and or actions?

What is the hypocrisy in
your own life that needs to
be addressed before you
can offer grace and truth to
someone else?

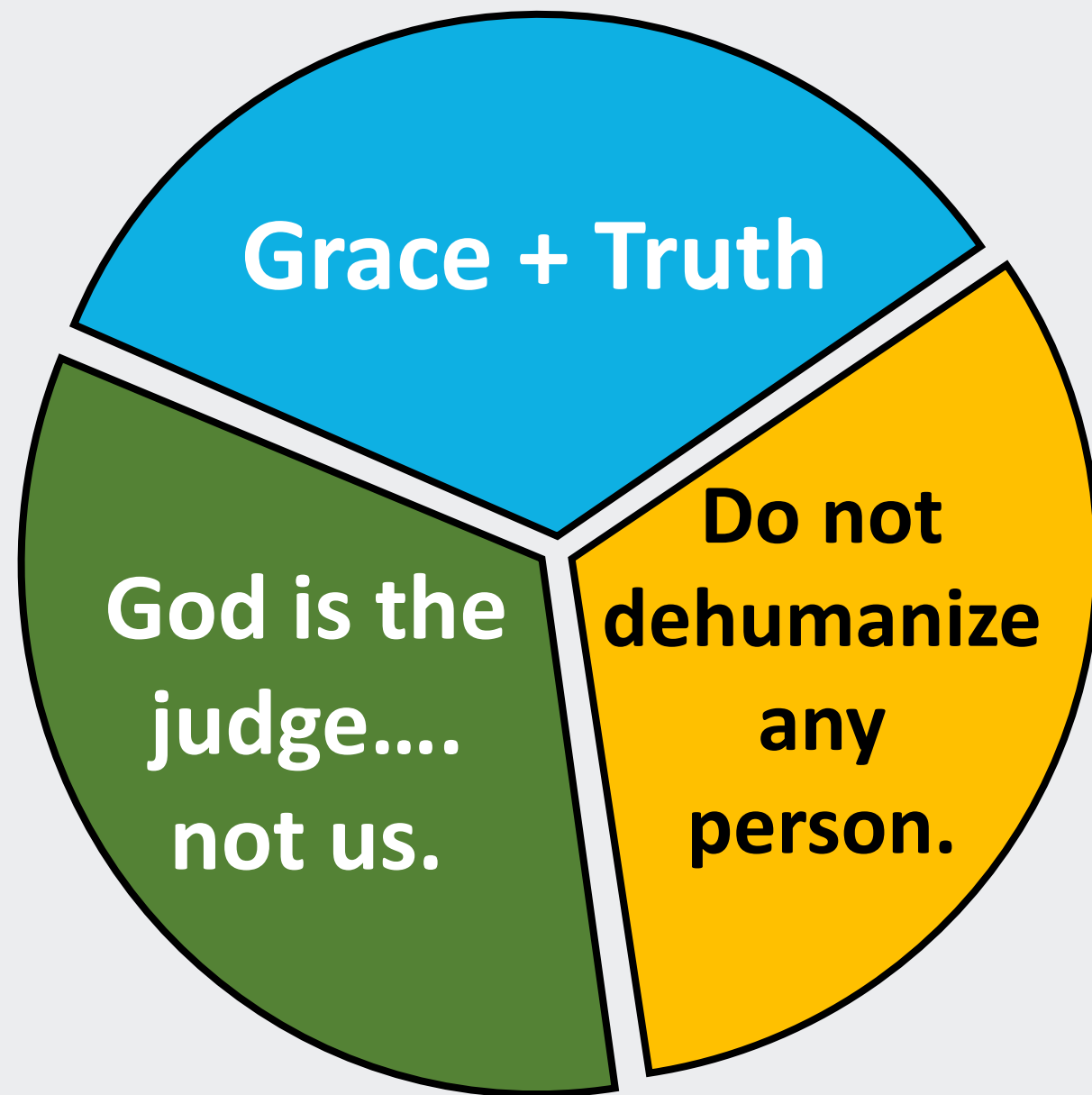


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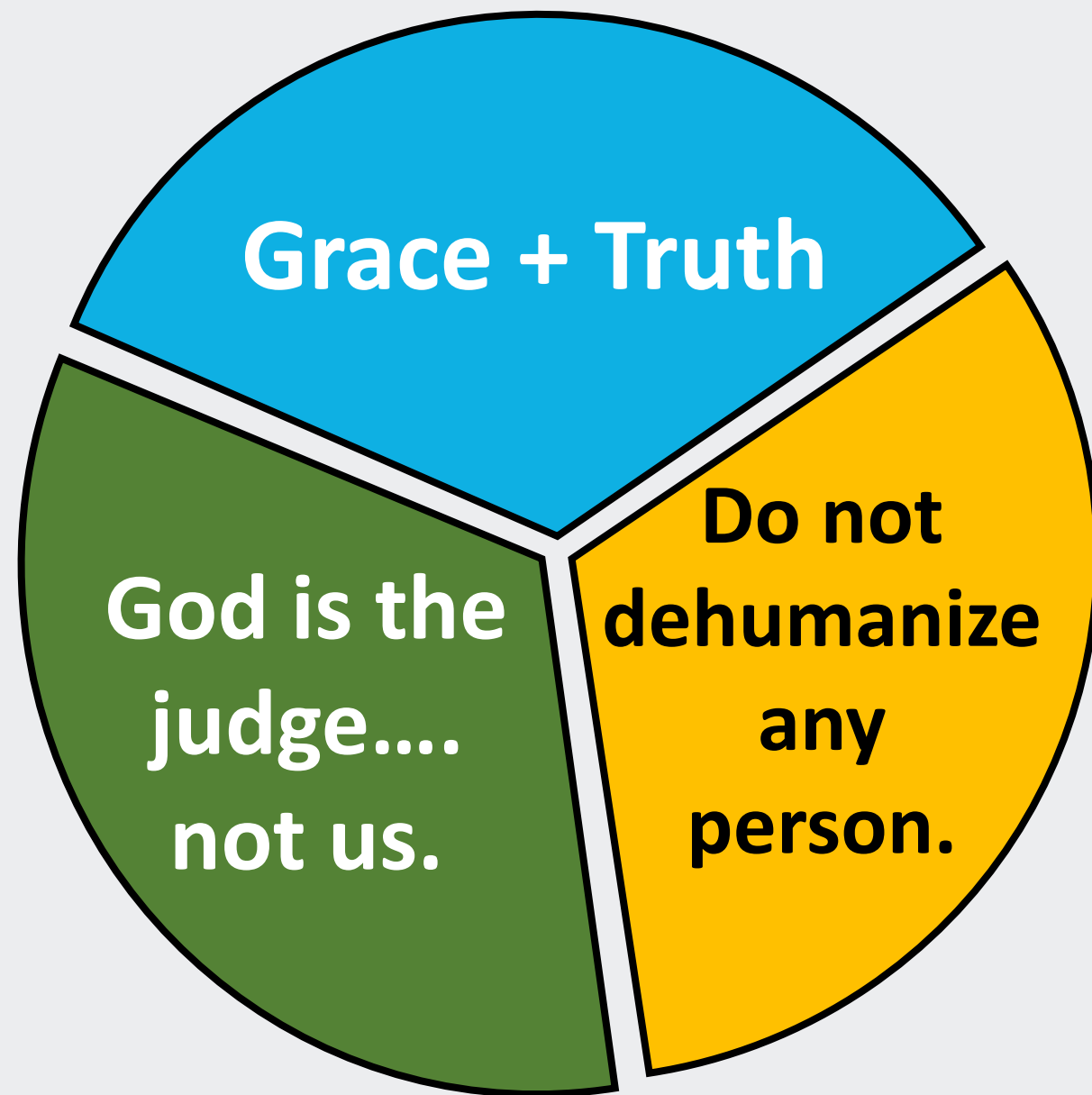
So...therefore...what now?

As followers of Jesus
are we willing to surrender to
love the way Jesus loved...
with a toughness and a
tenderness that is
wisely integrated together
for the good of people who
have intrinsic value because
they are created in the image
of God and out of respect for
the ultimate authority that lies
only with God Himself?

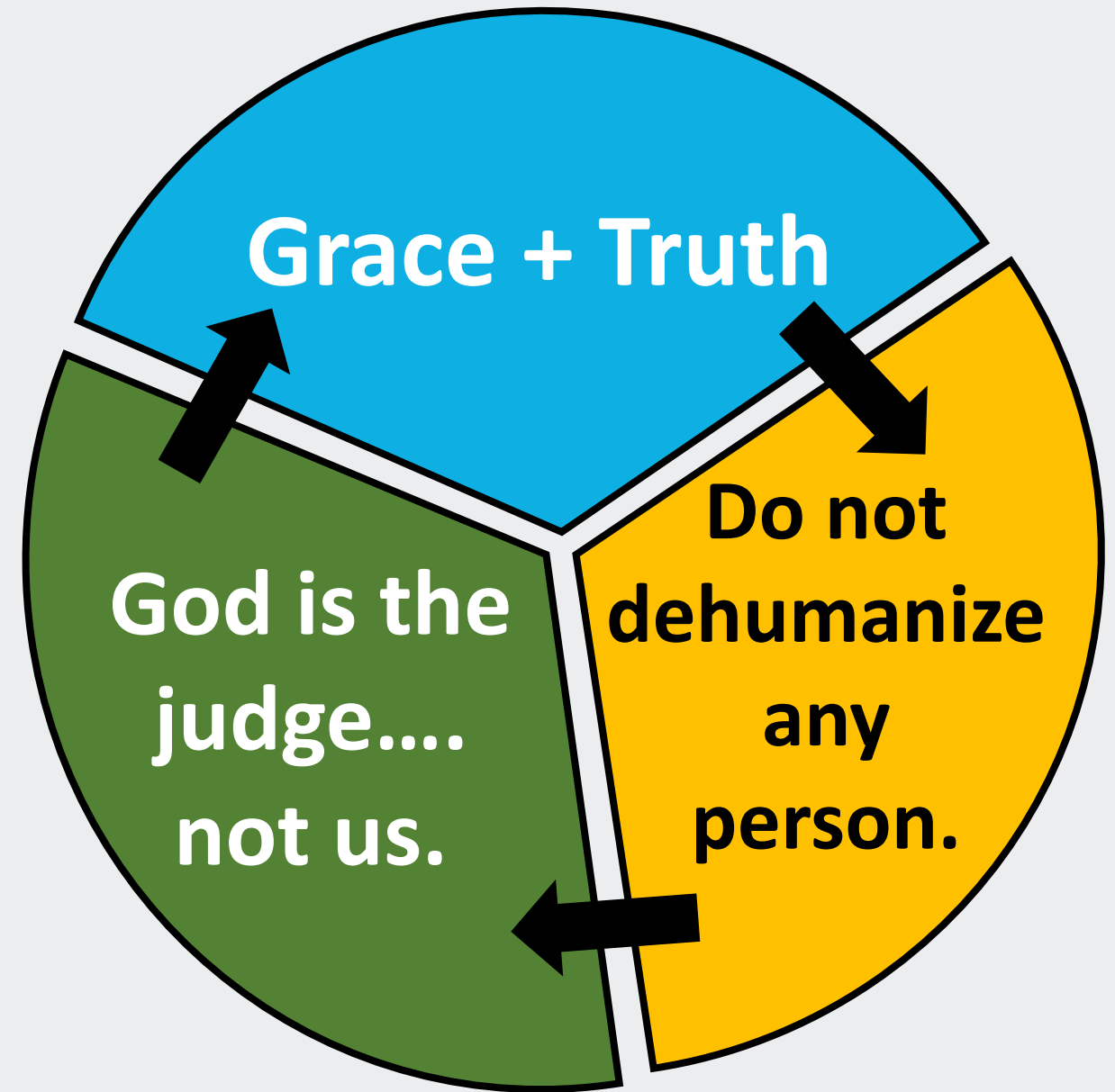


So...therefore...what now?

As a follower of Jesus
I am willing to surrender to
love the way Jesus loved...
with a toughness and a
tenderness that is
wisely integrated together
for the good of people who
have intrinsic value because
they are created in the image
of God and out of respect for
the ultimate authority that lies
with only God Himself.



As a follower of Jesus
I am willing to surrender to
love the way Jesus loved...
with a toughness and a
tenderness that is
wisely integrated together
for the good of people
(who have intrinsic value
because they are created in the
image of God),
and out of a respect for the
ultimate authority that lies with
only God Himself.





So.....therefore.....what now?



So.....therefore.....what now?

As a *surrendered* follower of the glorious Christ...

So.....therefore.....what now?

As a *surrendered* follower of the glorious Christ...

Grace + Truth

So.....therefore.....what now?

As a surrendered follower of the glorious Christ...

**Do not
dehumanize
any
person.**

So.....therefore.....what now?

As a *surrendered* follower of the glorious Christ...

God is the
judge....
not us.

As a follower of Jesus
what sort of a framework
can we use
to deal with, or to address
the societal,
the cultural,
the ethical
and
the moral issues
of our day
from a posture of love?

