



"I'm doing something for God!  
So, I'm sure everything is going to  
work out."

- a person about to be surprised

Walter

Substantive faith faces human ruthlessness  
with gracious boldness.

1. Human ruthlessness can never throw us,  
because it should never surprise us.

Source

Source

Source



Source

2. Offer bold graciousness to the broken oppressor

3. Offer gracious boldness to the unrepentantly  
abusive and unjust

Source

Source

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The background of the image is a network diagram. It consists of numerous small, colored circular nodes (in shades of teal, yellow, red, green, and purple) connected by thin, grey lines. These lines form a complex web of connections, with some nodes acting as central hubs and others as peripheral points. The entire network is contained within a thin teal border.

# ACTS

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## 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

**Substantive faith faces human ruthlessness  
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Romans 1:28-32

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done...they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

#### 6 examples of Human Ruthlessness:

1. **Slave Bill** - Denies food
2. **Slave Bill's Owner** - Skins him
3. **Negativists** - Loved order and social philosophy
4. **Officers** - Support in the chain of command
5. **Jailer** - Discovers the prisoners to ensure the peace and safety
6. **The Crowd** - Joined in as a mob in hatred of unknown foreigners

# 1. Human ruthlessness can never throw us, because it should never surprise us.

John 2:1-11

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## Romans 1:28-32

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## **6 examples of Human Ruthlessness:**

- 1. Slave Girl-** Demonic hold
- 2. Slave Girl's Owners-** Money idol
- 3. Magistrates-** Loved order and local privilege
- 4. Officers-** Trusted in the chain of command
- 5. Jailer-** Secures the prisoners to secure his place and safety
- 6. The Crowd-** Joined in as a mob in hatred of unknown foreigners



John 15:20-21

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' ***If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.*** If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

## 1 Peter 4:12-13

Dear friends, ***do not be surprised*** at the painful trial you are suffering, ***as though something strange were happening to you***. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

When you aren't surprised by human ruthlessness,  
you can respond to it better.

(in yourself, as well as others.)

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

## 2. Offer bold graciousness to the broken oppressor

## Acts 16:25-27

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

## 1. not just grace- Immediate and bold grace

No one will ever believe us that God is a God of costly forgiveness unless we are consistently a people of costly forgiveness.

## 2. It can't be about your personal sense of injustice.

are you nice  
because  
you're loving,  
or is being  
*thought* nice  
your idol?



ac·qui·es·cence

*ˌækwɪˈesns*

*noun*

the state of acquiescence of a person who is not opposed

the state of acquiescence, the state of being

as·ser·tive

*ˌæssərˈtɪv*

*adjective*

having or showing a confident and forceful personality

children should be more assertive with their parents

### 3. Offer gracious boldness to the unrepentantly abusive and unjust

Who is the Roman Citizen here?

Treason

The action of the law  
was the most unlawful  
thing possible

Irony

The accused  
and roman was  
the true Roman

Why fight?

Latin and the Church

A public place for the Church

Lumpies

The Public Place

The Light for the Church



Gracious boldness can never  
be our own righteousness


How far could Paul have taken it?

are you nice  
because  
you're loving,  
or is being  
***thought*** nice  
your idol?





## ac·qui·es·cence

/ˌakwēˈesəns/ 

*noun*

the reluctant acceptance of something without protest.  
"in silent acquiescence, she rose to her feet"

## as·ser·tive

/əˈsɜrdɪv/

*adjective*

having or showing a confident and forceful personality.  
"patients should be more assertive with their doctors"

Who is the Roman Citizen here?

## Treason

The action of the law  
was the most unlawful  
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## Irony

The accused  
anti-roman was  
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# Why fight?

Lydia and the church

A public place for the Gospel

# Lunches

The Public Good

The Fight for the Gospel



Gracious boldness can never  
be our own ruthlessness

How far could Paul have taken it?

The image features a network diagram as a background. It consists of numerous small, colored circular nodes (in shades of teal, yellow, red, green, and purple) connected by thin, grey lines. These connections form a complex web of clusters and paths across the entire frame. The word "ACTS" is superimposed in the center in a large, bold, teal-colored sans-serif font.

# ACTS