

# “Grace and Truth”

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## Scripture

### John 1:14-17

“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.” **For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace**. For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**”

### Last Week

We finished up the Gospel of John

With a discussion of Personal Discipleship

### This Week

One of my key takeaways from the Gospel of John

Communion Sunday

### Full of Grace and Truth

#### John 1:14

“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**”

John’s view of the Lord -> he personally saw the Lord’s glory

He saw it up close; He saw the Transfiguration of the Lord; He heard the words of the Father from Heaven

After seeing Him for years

John is reflecting back on events from 60 years prior to his writing the Gospel

Jesus was full of both grace and truth

#### John 1:16

“**For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.**”

Because of His love for us

We have personally received grace

Not just a little bit of grace, but “**grace upon grace**”

A superabundance of grace

An unlimited amount of grace

We have received it in full -> presuming that the Holy Spirit lives within us

What is Grace?

An acronym: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**

It is God's unmerited favor -> We did not nor do we not deserve the blessings from God

Yet we have them in full

**What about Grace?**

What is grace all about?

**Ephesians 1:3-6**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**"

We were chosen to receive God's Grace

Before the foundation of the world, we were chosen

In His love, He predestined us to be adopted as sons and daughters of God

According to His will -> His plan for our lives

"**to the praise of the glory of His grace**" -> we praise Him for His grace toward us

"**which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved**" -> it is a gift to us to be called as part of the "Beloved"

It is how we are "saved" -> We accept Jesus's sacrifice as we realize the Father's gift to us

We are all saved in the same way -> although our paths to Jesus are very different

We'll talk about that more next week

Salvation is a gift of grace:

**Ephesians 2:4-9**

"God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead in our transgressions**, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us** in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**"

Because of His great love for us, we have, personally, "**by grace...been saved**"

"**so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us**"

Even when we return with Him in glory -> Revelation 19:11-14 -> armies behind Him in white linen

**“For by grace you have been saved through faith” -> Our faith in Jesus is evidence of His grace toward us**

**“that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” -> we didn’t earn salvation, we don’t merit salvation**

It is simply a gift received by us

Jesus was full of grace

**What about Truth?**

John wrote that Jesus’s grace was in contrast to the Law

**John 1:17**

**“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”**

What was the purpose of the Law?

To show that we are sinners:

**Romans 5:20-21**

**“The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

The Law was the Truth

The Bible is still the Truth

The words of Jesus are Truth and Jesus showed us the Truth

What was the Truth?

The Ten Commandments were given to the Israelites to prove that they needed a Savior

The Law came so that sin would be recognized

A simple example: A child and a line

With sin, grace was needed -> otherwise, an immediate death would occur

**Romans 3:20**

**“By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”**

How do you know you have sin in your life without the law? -> You do not and cannot!

**Galatians 3:23-26**

**“Before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore, **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. **For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**”**

So, Jesus brought the recognition of truth:

### John 15:22

"If I had not come and spoken to them, **they would not have sin**, but now they have no excuse for their sin."

Without Jesus pointing out the Law and the Jews would have considered themselves innocent and acceptable

And they killed Him for it -> "the truth has a scratched face"

He pointed out truth, and He also said that He was the ONLY way to the Father

### John 14:6

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **and the truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

No man comes to the Father except through being a recipient of grace from Jesus

That is the truth, despite what many say -> there are many ways to be acceptable to God?

There is only one way to be acceptable to God and only one path to get you to that point

### Grace Without Truth?

What if you were filled with grace but no truth?

We see this a lot in the world today -> focus only on Jesus's love

Jesus's message is that all can be accepted regardless of how they live -> God accepts a homosexual lifestyle!

"God accepts everyone, regardless of how they continue to live!"

### Truth Without Grace?

What if you were filled with truth but had no grace?

We see this a lot in the world today, too

Judgmental people, pointing out another's sin

### Matthew 7:1-2

"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. **For in the way you judge, you will be judged**; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."

Too often, we love to speak the truth to others, but maybe not consider our own sin

### Grace and Truth Applied

#### 1) The Woman at the Well

#### John 4:16-19

"He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for **you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.**" The woman said to Him, "**Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.**"

Jesus pointed out the gross sin in the woman's life, but yet did not condemn her

Instead, Jesus said, "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people **the Father seeks to be His worshipers.**"

Jesus gave her the truth, and also spoke of the Father's grace

## 2) The Woman caught in Adultery

The Jews were trying to trap Jesus between the Law and Grace

### John 8:3-5

"The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery and having set her in the center of the court, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. "**Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?"**

Did Jesus condemn her or show grace?

Did Jesus give her the truth?

### John 8:10-11

"Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "**I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.**"

Jesus acknowledged that she was a sinner -> told her to sin no longer -> she needed the truth

Well, what about us? -> Do you think you easily give grace to others? -> How about giving the truth?

If Jesus was full of grace and truth, what should we be filled with?

## People of Grace and Truth

### Ephesians 4:25-32

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, **let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, **that it may give grace to those who hear.** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **Be gracious to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**"

If Jesus was full of grace and truth, so should His people be full of grace and truth

## Communion Prayer

### Benediction