



Grace & Truth

John 1:14-18 Today's Guest Speaker: James Gleason

The Apostle John continues his glorious opening of his gospel in John 1:1-18 with two realities regarding the life of Christ. He is full of grace and truth. John lays it out from the beginning, leaving no question about Christ's identity. He answers the two burning questions we'd have right out of the gate. **Who is this man? He is God made flesh. What is He like? He is full of grace and truth.** He is not merely gracious; He is **full** of grace. He did not merely teach truth, He is **full** of truth. Both of these qualities find their fullness in the Lord Jesus Christ.

GRACE:

Grace is defined as undeserved favor. We see this time and again as Christ gave His grace to the downtrodden and hopeless in Scripture - those sad, soiled, lonely people who'd been left behind in the dust. But let's not view grace as kindness only. Grace is kindness, yes, but also mercy. In fact, every single fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) can be summed up in the word 'grace.' There are no conditions upon graceful love. Loving God is the whole duty of man (**Ecc. 12:13**); loving your neighbor as yourself is grace.

God's grace is so abundant, that of His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Christ's fullness of grace, therefore, is infinite. There is no limit, raining down upon us like ocean waves, never-ending, again and again, grace upon grace. This is the "life more abundantly" of which Christ speaks in **John 10:10**. Again, this goes beyond mere kindness this is the very favor of God.

TRUTH:

Yet one cannot have grace without truth, neither can you have truth without grace. For the God of grace is the one true God, and the truth of God is His abundant grace. True grace comes, then, from a clear and unblemished knowledge of the truth. One cannot give grace in truth without knowing the truth of grace. In other words, grace given without truth is performance, and truth without grace is brutality.



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SERMON NOTES CON'T ...

Grace and truth must be in balance, as if on a scale. Too little or too much tips the scales too far into one extreme or the other. When a Christian walks in the grace and truth of Christ, they are stunning. This is when they are most like their Lord. They exhibit all the fruits of the Spirit, and yet they do not back down, nor do they compromise upon the truth of God. There is a certain “fullness” about them, an attractiveness, if you will, that is impossible to ignore or deny. This is the glory of Christ alive in the heart of a believer. Perhaps we have not witnessed our Lord in the flesh, but within His children we have witnessed His glory.

REFLECTION:

At Christ’s trial, Pilate sarcastically quipped, “What is truth?” Here lies the contrast between godly and worldly truth. Christ’s truth is absolute. Worldly truth constantly moves the goalposts. There is no such thing as “my truth” or “your truth”, there is only one Truth, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone wants grace, but truth gets you in trouble. Meditate on this and ask God to give you boldness in truth. Why is it so important to be full of truth as well as grace?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor James’ message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.

1. Why is there such tension between grace and truth?
2. Do you find yourself to be a grace person or a truth person?
3. How has that affected your relationships?
4. Jesus intentionally spent time with hurting and broken people. Do you intentionally spend time with those outside of your comfort zone?
5. Are “unholy” people comfortable in your presence?
6. What step could you take this week to move to the other side of the pendulum?