

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN | John 1:14-18

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.') **16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**
John 1:14-18 ESV

I. HOW GRACE RELATES TO GOD'S GLORY

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14 ESV

This is the most important question for all of humanity: Will we see the glory of the Son of God? The Gospel of John is explicitly designed by God to powerfully confront us through the person and work of Jesus Christ. In this loving confrontation we are graciously given the opportunity to see the glory of the Son of God. If God gives us eyes to see this glory, we will see it. If he doesn't give us eyes to see this glory, we won't see it.

Why do you and I need grace? The answer given in this first chapter is that grace is the only way we become the children of God.

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
John 1:12-13 ESV

Many people, even Christians, say things like, "We're all God's children", but this is not what Jesus actually taught. The Bible clearly does not teach that everyone is a child of God.

39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."
John 8:41-47 ESV

The ultimate goal of this Gospel is that those who have been chosen by grace to be God's children would recognize and treasure the glory of Jesus Christ as fully as any created being possibly can.

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
John 17:24 ESV

"The ultimate goal of Jesus' prayer for us is that we see the fullness of his glory after he returns to his Father. This will make him central and will make us supremely happy. That is what the Gospel is aiming at: the exaltation of the glory of Christ and the fullness of the joy of God's children who see it. "Father, glorify me," Jesus prays, "in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed" (John 17:5). "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). His glory and our joy. These are the twin goals."
-John Piper

These are the twin goals of Jesus' prayer for us in John 17, and these are the twin goals of the entirety of the Gospel of John, as well as the entirety of the Christian Faith. Everything God has ever done, and everything God will ever do is for these two purposes, his glory and our good - *Glory & Grace*.

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 ESV

5 He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace... 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 1:5-14 ESV

II. HOW GRACE RELATES TO GOD'S TRUTH

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

John 1:16 ESV

In verse 16, John easily could have said that we have received “truth upon truth”, but instead, the Holy Spirit inspired John to say that through Jesus we have received “grace upon grace”. This is significant because this is actually the last time the word *grace* will ever appear in the Gospel of John. Variations of the word *truth* will continue to appear over and over again, but the word *grace* is only seen here in chapter 1. This is not to say that there is an absence of grace in the Gospel of John, or that truth is more important than grace. On the contrary, the Holy Spirit through John simply wants us to see truth as the primary agency of grace. The Holy Spirit wants us to recognize that the way God works his grace into our lives is through his truth. Truth is God's designated means for administering his grace.

32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32 ESV

Christians must never treat grace and truth as two separate things that conflict with one another.

III. GRACE UPON GRACE

17 The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 1:17-18 ESV

The contrast between Jesus and Moses in John 1:17-18 is not meant to convey that the law which God gave through Moses was not a gracious gift and that Christ's finished work on the cross is. God's law was most certainly a gracious gift to his people. This is why verse 16 refers to us as receiving “grace upon grace”. Both the law given through Moses and the finished work of Jesus are grace.