



The Balance of Grace and Truth | Doug Wekenman | 

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This weekend Doug kicked off our new series, *Pendulum*, by discussing the importance of wrestling with the tension found in the space between two things that appear to have nothing to do with each other. In a world where lines are drawn in the sand, teams are made, sides are taken, and people seem to be willing to live and die by whichever belief or opinion they hold to, we often blind ourselves from the beautiful answers found in the “mystery of the middle.” This week Doug helped us sit in the tension between our week one topic, *Grace and Truth*.

Pendulums require continuous energy and effort to swing from one side to the other - something that no individual can sustain forever. Similarly, staying pinned to one side or the other requires strength and stubbornness, or force and coercion, each one leaving us either deeply wounded and distant, or deeply blinded and hardened from experiencing an intimate relationship with Jesus. But there is good news. Jesus invites us into the mystery of the middle where his truth and grace collide - a space filled with freedom and peace.

If you could only have one of the following for the rest of your life, which would you choose?

- **Attend sporting events or concerts?**
- **Eat in every night or eat out every night?**
- **Dressing up or being casual/comfy?**
- **Phone or no phone**

Share a high, a low, and something bizarre or interesting that happened last week.

What tough questions about God or your faith have come up in your life recently?

G R O W

Read John 1:14-17

In the first letter of his Gospel, John reminds us that Jesus is full of grace and truth. Why is that so important? Because grace without truth ceases to be grace and leads to lawlessness, and truth without grace places such a heavy burden on people to earn the approval of God through their actions that they end up turning away from God completely. Chris Hodges says it this way, “Grace without truth is meaningless, truth without grace is just mean, but grace and truth together is medicine.” Jesus is 100% grace and 100% truth. As followers of Jesus, we are called to surrender our wounds and our preferences that push us to one side of the pendulum or the other, and join Jesus in the tension and mystery of the middle as he guides us.

Which part of this passage resonated with you the most?

What does it mean to you to have the “fullness of God dwelling among you”?

Where is your pendulum this season? (This can be for any aspect of your life) Are you pinned to one side, swinging back and forth, or wrestling with the tension in the middle?

M O V E

Read Joshua 5:13-14

After reading the verse above, is there a prayer, a situation, or a season of your life in which you feel convicted like Joshua was?

What is holding you captive right now? A mindset, a conflict, an old wound, etc.?

P R A Y

God, thank you for reminding us that you are not a God of either/or, you are a God of both/and. We pray that you walk with us as we navigate the feelings, emotions, experiences, wounds, and beliefs that have caused our pendulum to swing to one side, but we also pray that you invite us into the mystery of the middle with truth and grace where our hearts can be opened your perfect love and freedom. We pray for wisdom and discernment this week as we navigate challenges with a both/and perspective and see you move through our lives in a way that only you can.