

**“When Gracie Met Truthy”**  
**Christian: It’s Not What You Think, Part 5**  
October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Jesus said the distinguishing characteristic of His followers would be their **PROFOUND** love for one another

John 13:34-35 (NIV) “ [Jesus said] A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

Jesus tells us how we are to love – we are to love others as He **LOVED US**

When you look at the way Jesus loved, there is a **TENSION** we often want to resolve

If you try to resolve the tension that’s created around Jesus’ love, you **LOSE** the ability to love the way Jesus called us to love

John 1:1-5,9-12 (NIV) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God,”

John 1:14 (NIV) “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

We usually like the verses that lean toward truth when telling others **WHAT TO DO**; we usually like the verses that lean toward grace when it’s about **ME**

John 1:16 (ESV) “For from His [Jesus] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”

John 1:17 (NIV) “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Jesus is not the balance between grace and truth – but the **EMBODIMENT OF**

*Woman at the well* (John 4:1-26)

John 4:17-18 (NIV) “‘I have no husband,’ she replied. Jesus said to her, ‘You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.’” **(truth)**

John 4:10,25-26 (NIV) “Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him & He would have given you living water.’... The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ) ‘is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.’ <sup>26</sup>Then Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you—I am He.’” **(grace)**

*Matthew joins the disciples* (Matthew 9:9-12)

Matthew 9:9 (NIV) “As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow Me,’ He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.” **(grace)**

Matthew 9:12 (NIV) “On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’” **(truth)**

*The criminal dying on the cross* (Luke 23:39-43) compare to *The rich young ruler* (Mark 10:17-23)

Luke 23:41 (NIV) “[one criminal to the other] We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” **(truth)**

Luke 23:43 (NIV) “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.’” **(grace)**

Mark 10:17 (NIV) “As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up to Him and fell on His knees before Him. ‘Good teacher, he asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’”

Mark 10:21 (NIV) “Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.’”

*Woman caught in adultery* (John 8:1-11)

John 8:3-5 (NIV) “<sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?’”

John 8:10-11 (NIV) “Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ **(grace)** Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’” **(truth)**

If you want to know what Jesus meant when Jesus said to love one another, **WATCH** how Jesus loved This is how Jesus loved – He called “sin,” **SIN** (truth), and then He **PAID** for it (grace)

Even if the woman caught in adultery did not leave her life of sin, Jesus still **LOVED** her even though she wouldn’t be in a **RIGHT** relationship with God

The reason we have to keep saying what’s true is because sin has a “**GOTCHA**,” and God doesn’t want sin to “**GET YA**”

The reason we can’t let go of grace is because to some extent, sin **ALREADY** got us, and grace is the **ONLY WAY BACK**

If Jesus is the embodiment of grace and truth, and we’re His body - His body, His hands, His feet, **WE** are the best expression of Jesus anyone will ever **SEE**

As a church we have to be **COMFORTABLE** with the mess, the unfairness, the inconsistency and all the stuff that goes along with managing & hanging on to the tension around grace and truth

The church is at its best when we **EMBRACE** grace and truth and **REFUSE** to let go of either

There will be times in our lives where we’ll need massive doses of **TRUTH** and massive doses of **GRACE**, and the church is to be the **DISPENSER** of both

### ***My Next Step Today Is:***

- I will pray & ask God to help me and our church manage the tension between grace and truth, so that people from every walk of life will know that God says, “Yes, you’ve sinned, and I paid for it. You are not condemned, and I love you. And if you don’t get that reading words on a page, then perhaps when you go to be a part of My body (My church at New Hope), you will sense grace and truth in such a redemptive way that it will change your life forever.”

**Next week:** Join us as we continue this series by looking at “Angry Birds.” Invite a friend!

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