

Full of Grace and Truth

(John 1:14-18)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. Kelli's birthday – transitioning to the Wallenda's tightrope walking.
 2. Likewise, maintaining a balance between grace and truth is precarious.
 3. Enter Jesus...stage left (John 1:1,14-18).
 - a. Jesus was the express image of God (Colossians 1:15).
 - b. He came not so he could learn what man was like, but so that man could learn what God is like.
 - c. While Jesus walked among us, he was "Full" of grace and truth.
 - d. Yet we struggle with it and tend to go to either extreme.

I. Extremes Regarding Grace and Truth

- A. Emphasis on truth while disregarding grace.
 1. (John 8:32) The truth sets us free.
 2. (1 Timothy 4:16) error is not as good as truth.
 3. Ills. Of woman in Michigan Bible class.
 4. Some use truth as a weapon to harm others.
 5. Ills. Preacher's wife telling a woman she was going to hell.
 6. (Jonah 4:1).
- B. Emphasis on grace while disregarding truth.
 1. (Ephesians 2:5) By grace you have been saved.
 2. Ills. Of Preacher making a choice.
 3. Ills. Of Preacher saying we need to quit telling our children, "don't."
 4. Even the apostle Peter placed too much emphasis on grace to the exclusion of truth (Matthew 16:21-23).

II. Jesus' Perfect Example

- A. Jesus perfectly balanced grace and truth.
- B. He never lost focus of either.
 1. Ills. Me losing focus and playing blocks.
- C. Jesus didn't have to pick between grace and truth – he fully embraced both.
- D. Since, Jesus was full of grace and truth, should we not take a look at his life and see examples of how he lived this out?
- E. (John 5:1-14) Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.
- F. (John 8:1-12) Woman taken in adultery.
 1. Many only see grace in this passage.
 2. However truth is also honored.
 - a. (Leviticus 20:10) Both parties.
 - b. (Deuteronomy 17:6-7) Witnesses commence the stoning.
- G. (Mark 10:17-27) The Rich Young Ruler.
 1. This man would be the perfect convert today.

2. However, Jesus let him walk away.
3. Have you ever considered how difficult that must have been?
 - a. This man was not just an acquaintance of Jesus.
 - b. Jesus was his Maker!

- Conclusion:
1. Brethren let's stay balanced.
 2. Like Jesus, may it be said of us that we are full of grace and truth.
 3. Also, remember that grace and truth in our lives are not established by simply using words, but by living out grace and truth.
 4. In all the sermon Jesus ever preached, in all of his personal one-on-one encounters, in all the miracles he ever performed, in all the parables he ever taught, he never once used the word grace.
 5. He didn't have to; he lived it, perfectly balancing both grace and truth and I challenge you to this end as well.