

## The Balanced Life (Part 1)

(John 1:14-17)

**Introduction:** Jesus was perfectly balanced. He was full of grace and truth. Now, when you are full of Jesus you will be full of grace and truth.

When a church is full of Jesus, it will be full of grace and truth. *For Jesus, it just came naturally.* With Jesus, grace and truth were always perfectly balanced. He never shared grace at the expense of truth, and He never spoke truth at the expense of grace. He was balanced.

As we begin this series, I want to share with you why we as a church need to be balanced, and why we as Christians our individual lives need to be balanced, and why this balance is so very, very important.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be looking at how Jesus, at times, was full of grace, and at times, full of truth, and then always full of grace, and truth. *Let me share why we need both...*

### I. We need the compassion of grace:

**A. Jesus was "full of grace and truth."** I don't believe that it is a coincidence that grace comes first.

1. If you were a Jew, two-thousand years ago, you would understand why.
  - a. First century Jewish culture had no problem understanding truth, because that is all they really knew and that was all they were really taught.
  - b. They really understood truth a lot better than they understood grace, because the over-arching emphasis of the Old Testament was on truth.
2. When you think about the Old Testament you think about commandments - thou shalt and thou shalt not.
  - a. Now that's not to say you don't find grace in the Old Testament.
  - b. Do you remember when God was going to destroy the entire world in a flood? (Genesis, 6:8)

However, the overarching emphasis of the Old Testament was law. *That is why John points out in verse 17,...*

3. *"For the law was given through Moses..."* (Jn 1:17a)
  - a. But when Jesus came along, the light of grace shined out of His life so brightly that everyone could see it.
  - b. When Jesus came on the scene, the light of the grace of His life burst through like the morning sun.
  - c. We need the compassion of grace to be like Jesus, and we if we are full of Jesus, we will have it.

### II. We need the conviction of truth:

**A. Jesus was** - "...full of grace and truth." (Jn 1:14)

1. Jesus was not one-sided in His approach to people.
2. There is a misrepresentation of Jesus in our culture today that wants to make Jesus into our image – It perfectly signifies what it is to be all grace and no truth.

Jesus was full of grace and truth, and we want to speak grace, but we also want to speak truth. We want to give grace, but we must also give truth.

### III. We need the combination of grace and truth:

**A. Grace and truth must be balanced!** We need them both...

1. Grace without truth is deceptive. However, ...
2. Truth without grace is defective.

*Let me give this to you in a simple formula to remember.*

**Grace without truth equals liberalism.** Those who want grace without truth are quick to excuse and slow to confront.

**Truth without grace equals legalism.** Those who want truth without grace are quick to judge and slow to forgive.

**However, grace and truth equal liberty.**

**B. On the one hand, Jesus was all grace.** However, ...

**C. Jesus was all truth as well.**

**D. when it comes to us –**

1. When you are full of self you will usually be full of truth and empty of grace or you will be full of grace and empty of truth.
2. I have learned by experience, the fuller I am of Jesus, the fuller I am of both grace and truth.

**Conclusion:** What I want people to see in our church and in us today, is Christians who in a spirit of grace, love people enough to tell them the truth.

**What can you do today?** Every one of us here in this room tend to tip the scale towards one or the other. Most of us tend to be more of a *truther* or a *gracer*.

Now which way do you lean? *Your answer reveals where you need to become more like Jesus and fuller of Jesus.*