



WEEK FOUR

Grace & Truth

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The tension in Jesus' love was between truth and grace, between being sinners and being forgiven. Jesus was comfortable with that tension. He was willing to minister through it.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the best novel you've read or movie you've seen where the tension had you on the edge of your seat? What was at stake? Why was the story so tense?

Would the story have been as enjoyable with a more relaxed, comfortable pace?

2. Why do you think we typically prefer comfort over tension?

3. Take a look at John 1:14. What does this verse say Jesus was filled with?

How are these two virtues alike? How are they different?

How is it possible to be filled with both?

4. Do you feel like it is easier for you to receive/give truth or receive/give grace? Why do you think this is true of you?

5. How much of your childhood experience plays a part in how you respond to and give out truth and grace?

6. Now look at Luke 23:40–42. What part does truth play in this scene?

How about grace?

Was Jesus minimizing anyone's offenses here?

7. Turn to John 8:2-11. How are both truth and grace honored as well as applied in this scene?

Write down all the words that Jesus says to this woman. Which words offer grace? Which ones offer truth?

Are they at any time opposed to each other?

8. Consider this quote by author and pastor Andy Stanley: "It is our misunderstanding of the grace Jesus modeled and taught that leaves us feeling as if grace allows people to 'get by' with things. It is often our misapplication of truth that leaves people feeling condemned and isolated. But in Jesus, we discover that it doesn't have to be that way. Grace doesn't dumb down sin to make it more palatable. Grace doesn't have to." What is Andy's main point here?

How have you seen Christians misapply truth?

Personal Meditation: Andy Stanley's church has adopted the motto: "We walk toward messes." He wrote: "When you were your messiest version of you, you weren't looking for a policy, were you? You needed somebody to take you just as you were. That's what Jesus did for me. That's what Jesus did and will do for you. That being the case, it seems to me that's what we should be about as the local church." This week spend some time prayerfully considering the degree to which you are operating out of grace and/or out of truth. Does your approach to life allow you to love people like Christ loves them?

Memorize Ephesians 4:15: "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church." (NLT)