

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 10th January 2021
Sermon Title: Foundations of Discipleship: The Gospel - grace and truth
Bible Passage: John 1:14, Ephesians 2:1-9, John 8:31-34

Recapping the Preach

Take time to read the three passages and perhaps look at a different translation

- What stood out to from the passages?
- Stu began by saying that there is a perceived tension between grace and truth. Do you agree with this?
- Stu described people who lean towards grace and those who lean towards truth. Which way do you lean - more towards grace or more towards truth?
- Which would you find easier - to be gracious to someone (show them a kindness even when they are undeserving) from your work, family or church or share a difficult truth with someone from your work, family or church?

Stu described grace as God's kindness to the undeserving and his favour towards the unworthy. And described truth as the self-expression of God (God is the true God and all His knowledge and words are true and the final standard of truth) - how God has revealed himself, everything that he says about himself and humankind, our standing before him, how we relate to him and what he expects of us is all truth and all encompassed in Christ and his Word.

- Do you agree with the definitions above? Are there other definitions you would add to this?
- It is sometimes claimed that grace is more important than truth, after all John mentions it before truth (John 1:14,17) and speaks about grace upon grace (John 1:16). Do you agree/disagree with this statement and why?
- Rather than grace and truth being mutually exclusive polar opposites, they are mutually complementary - the one completes the other and they go well together. So grace is truth and completes truth and truth needs grace in the life of a believer. Do you agree/disagree with this statement and why?
- The following verses all reference truth: John 17:17, Psalm 145:18, Ephesians 6:14, Psalm 119:160, John 8:. Look them up and explore what each one tells us about the role of truth in the life of a believer?
- The following verses all reference grace: 2 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 6:14, Hebrews 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:10. Look them up and explore what each one tells us about the role of grace in the life of a believer?
- Read John 8:31: how does the truth set us free (compare John 17:17)?

Stu made the point that grace and truth are present and equally at work in the life of a believer both in our justification and ongoing sanctification. Our goal is to grow to be like Christ who was **full** of both grace and truth.

- How might we practically grow in truth and grace?
- Is there a particular truth you are wrestling with at the moment and seeking to grow in (for example Colossians 3:12-14)?
- Are there people in your life that you struggle to be gracious towards?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that we would be immersed in God's Truth.
- Pray that God would work in us to grow in grace.
- Pray that we would grow to be full of both grace and truth.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>