

We are full of grace and truth (Based on the Introduction of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Jesus is full of grace and truth and he fills us with grace and truth.

Biblical Foundation

The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son. John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'" Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 1:14-17 (TEV)

Jesus embodies the unity of God's Word (truth) and God's activity (grace). We cannot process grace or truth apart from the person of Jesus Christ.

Unbelief and unwillingness

If I am full of grace, there is no excuse for legalism in my life (Matthew 23:4; Matthew 11:28-30).

When we seek life and freedom by focusing exclusively on rules (laws, principles, truths separate from grace), we slip into legalism. How do we know when this has happened? God's grace will be seen as a license to sin and sound like heresy. Legalism dismisses grace.

If I am full of truth, there is no excuse for unrestraint (what the Bible calls "licentiousness") in my life (Matthew 5:17-20; John 8:11).

When we seek life and freedom through self-determination, in choosing whatever feels or seems good, we slip into an abuse of grace (licentiousness). How do we know when this has happened? Truth will be seen as "law" and will sound like legalism. Licentiousness (unrestrained by grace) disregards truth.

Talk about these two extremes: What does legalism look like? What does licentiousness (unrestrained by grace) look like?

Jesus wants you to know him. He wants you to live an extraordinary life full of grace and truth. He calls you to a miraculous life, one that requires edge-of-your-seat faith to follow him, where you find yourself asking in joy, "What's next, Jesus? What are you going to do through me today?"

You can have that. Jesus calls. What is your response?