

GRACE NOTES

Series: Counter Culture

Message: **Living with Grace & in Truth**

Scripture: John 1:1-5, 14

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2015



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We are to be people who live with grace and in truth and with both in fullness.

Grace and truth reside together in the heart and will of God without diminishing either of them.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH?

We must remove barriers to Jesus AND declare Jesus is the only way to be saved.

We must forsake condemnation AND call believers to confession and repentance.

We must have a biblical view of sin AND forgiveness.

We must speak the truth AND speak it in love.

The fullness of grace and truth are found in the cross of Christ.

STUDY NOTES

Just for fun - What is your favorite Christmas song and why is it your favorite?

Who is the most gracious person you know?

Who is the most truthful person you know?

Would your family and friends describe you as gracious, truthful, or both? Why?

Thinking back to Sunday's message - What challenged you, encouraged you, or caused you to change the way you think or act?

In Ephesians 5:18, we are told not to get drunk, but instead to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The idea is that whatever fills you controls you. How does this relate to being full of grace and truth?

Read **Ephesians 4:11-16**.

As followers of Jesus, we are encouraged to speak the truth in love. In this passage, what are we told is the result of doing this?

Do you find it difficult to speak the truth in love?

Do you find it difficult to hear the truth spoken to you, even if it is done in love?

Each day, we're getting a little closer to Christmas. How does the coming of Jesus display both grace and truth?

There is a lot of talk in Christian circles about how to put Christ back into Christmas. What are some ways we can do this while displaying the fullness of both grace and truth?

You have heard it said, "Hate the sin but love the sinner." Do you think this statement is accurate? If so, how can we put it into practice? Can it be misunderstood? How?