

"The Word as Personal Grace and Truth"

John 1:14-16

According to the apostle John, Jesus was full of it! Full of grace and truth that is! (Jo 1:14) Also, according to John in verse 16, we are now full of it - full of Him and His grace and truth.

Grace and truth are held together in Jesus Christ. He is also holding them together in us as well as holding us together in them. Therefore, we cannot separate grace from truth, truth from grace, without creating a mess. Legalists like to dismiss grace while the licentious want to disregard truth. Both groups end up paddling around in the seas of life with one oar in the water wondering why they keep going around in circles. Both try to soar in the rarified air of the heavenlies - but with only one wing - and wonder why they can't get off the ground.

In Jesus Christ there is a unity of God's Word (truth) and of God's activity (grace). Try and process either grace or truth apart from the person of Jesus Christ and you will be quickly greeted by the spirit of error. Seek life, seek freedom in laws, principles, truths and we easily become legalistic. How do we know when this has happened? Grace will be seen as license, it will sound like heresy. Seek life, seek freedom in self-determination, in choosing whatever feels or seems good, and become licentious. How do we know when that has occurred? Truth will be seen as "law". Truth sounds like legalism if we are abusing grace.

We seek life, freedom only in Jesus Christ. The fullness of both grace and truth are in Him. His grace is always truthful... His truth is forever gracious. There is no way to have the fullness of grace and truth apart from Him. He didn't come to show us ways of grace and truth or give us definitions of grace and truth. He came to be all the grace and all the truth we will ever need and freely offer both to us in the gift of Himself.

All this sounds wonderful, yet be warned. If He is full of grace and truth, and, if He is in us... what does that make us? Full of grace and truth, of course. It also means that we are without excuse. If I am full of grace, there is no excuse for legalism in my life. If I am full of truth, there is no excuse for license either. The only reason to live legalistically or licentiously is unbelief in the adequacy of the indwelling Lord Jesus Christ who freely supplies grace and truth for my every need. Or, an unwillingness to let Him be Himself - full of a grace and truth - in and through me.

What God has joined together, let no man put asunder!



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GREETINGS

One of the "perks" of what I do is the pleasure of seeing all the diversity in the Body of Christ. So many sizes and shapes, so many colors and kinds, so many examples and expressions of God's vitality.

Never was the variety more obvious and more resplendent than in Christ's Church in Waldorf, MD last month. And, I'm not sure anyone but God could have pulled it off in such a fitting manner. For a Saturday evening celebration of praise, who would have thought to put together an African-American family of gospel singers and musicians, a mime from the Philippines (in white-face), a Christian rock/pop band composed of four Caucasians in their teens and early twenties (three girls and one guy) and then, to top it off, a Christian comedian... and think that it would work?

Our God is a mighty God! He is into diversity. If everyone around us looks like us, thinks like us, dresses like us, wants to be only with others like us... maybe, just maybe, we are more interested in us than in God.

"How beautiful are all your dwelling places, O Lord."
(Ps 84:1)

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Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CALENDAR



JULY

4,11,18	CCF
13	Alachua Study
16-17	Lehigh Acres, FL (239-369-5555)
23-25	Knoxville, TN (865-690-8012)
27	Ocala Study

SEPTEMBER

11-15	Glorietta, NM
24-26	Binghamton, NY (607-625-4612)

OCTOBER

7-9	Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)
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NOVEMBER

19-21	Louisville, KY (502-241-1550)
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♥ PRAISE & PRAYER †

- ♥ God's beauty in diversity
- ♥ Fullness of Grace and Truth in us
- † Celebration of Christian Diversity
- † Acceptance of those not "like" us

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