

Grace AND Truth Sermon Notes - 9/3/25 - Chandler Sims

Scripture: John 8:1-11 & John 1:14, 17 NLT

INTRO

John 1:14 and 17 says

14 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**.

(John saying this is one greater than me)

17 For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.

4 Points

1. Truth Without Grace Wounds

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the **truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Matthew 23:4 says, "They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them." They knew what was right but lacked compassion.

Here are some things that Truth without Grace does....

- Builds walls instead of bridges.

- Produces fear-based religion rather than love-based relationship.
- Makes people feel like God is waiting to punish rather than waiting to redeem.

2. Grace Without Truth Doesn't Heal

Galatians 6:1

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Here are some things a grace-only mindset does

- Gives no accountability which causes people to continue in harmful patterns because there's no clear guidance or correction.
- Creates false security that makes individuals feel accepted, but they are not confronting what keeps them from real freedom.
- Gives Temporary comfort and emotional relief that is real, but without the truth, it doesn't produce lasting change.

Matthew 7:21-23

Some will call Jesus "Lord, Lord," feeling confident in God's acceptance, yet Jesus says He never knew them. Grace alone, without true obedience and heart transformation, didn't bring healing or salvation.

3. Jesus Models a Better Way

John 8:1-11

Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, **2** but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. **3** As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

4 “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. **5** The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. **7** They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” **8** Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. **10** Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

11 “No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

Jesus’ Method

- He met people where they were.
 - With lepers, sinners, and outcasts, He showed acceptance first, drawing them close.
- He never compromised truth.

- Sin was still called out. Hypocrisy was confronted. Faith was challenged.
- He created tension that led to transformation.
 - People felt loved but were also pointed toward God's standard.

4. Our Calling: Carriers of Both

2 Corinthians 5:20 says

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

So what should a carrier look like

- Speak Truth in Love (*Ephesians 4:15*)
 - Not truth to destroy but truth intended to heal.
 - Say what's right, but say it in a way that shows you care about the person more than the point.
- Lead With Grace
 - Grace opens ears. It disarms defensiveness.
 - Most people won't hear your truth until they feel your love
- Trust the Holy Spirit
 - You don't have to be the Savior — you're the messenger
 - The Spirit convicts hearts, not your sharp tone

Closing Questions

- When you share truth, do people sense your tears or your temper

- When you show grace, do you still point people to God's best for their life?
- Where in my life do I need more grace? Where do I need more truth?