

When GRACIE Met TRUTHIE...

(1) Grace vs. Truth

A PARADOX is a Statement or Proposition that seems Self-Contradictory or Absurd... But in Reality... it expresses a Possible TRUTH!

Jesus wasn't 50% GRACE and 50% TRUTH...

He was 100% GRACE and 100% TRUTH!

BOTH (GRACE and TRUTH) ARE INSEPARABLE WITH GOD!

And they MUST also become... INSEPARABLE WITH YOU!

GRACE IS WHAT WE RECEIVE... WHAT WE LONG FOR!

TRUTH IS WHAT WE RESPOND TO... WHAT SETS US FREE!

RECEIVING His GRACE... means that we must RESPOND to His TRUTH!

JOHN 1:14-16

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of GRACE and TRUTH. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his GRACE we have all received one blessing after another.

John tells us that JESUS is FULL of TWO THINGS...

GRACE and TRUTH

JOHN 5:1-8/14...

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

YOU HAVE TO "WANT" TO BE CHANGED...

BEFORE JESUS CAN CHANGE YOU!

In the OFFER of GRACE (RECEIVED) – JESUS connects it with TRUTH (RESPONSE)!

ACTION... FOLLOWED THE GIFT!

JESUS WAS FULL OF GRACE... AND TRUTH!

JOHN 8:1-11...

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

He was FULL OF GRACE...

And people who are FULL OF GRACE... Don't throw stones at others!

It's only in His PARDON... That you can NOW... LEAVE A LIFE OF SIN!

GOD IS THE ONE WHO GIVES YOU GRACE (FORGIVENESS) -- AND THEN HE SHOWS YOU THE TRUTH... HOW YOU SHOULD LIVE THERE ON!

The GRACE IS A GIFT... and the TRUTH... REQUIRES A RESPONSE FROM YOU!

In the OFFER of GRACE (RECEIVED) – JESUS connects it with TRUTH (RESPONSE)!

ACTION... FOLLOWED THE GIFT!

JESUS WAS FULL OF GRACE... AND TRUTH!

YOU CAN'T GET ONE... WITHOUT OWNING THE OTHER!

WHEN GOD OFFERS YOU GRACE – HE ALSO PROVIDES YOU WITH TRUTH!

Your GIFT OF GRACE provides you with the ability to LIVE OUT TRUTH!

1. AM I RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE... WITH TRUTH IN MY LIFE?

2. CAN OTHERS SEE GOD'S GRACE... AND TRUTH... IN ME?

Jesus didn't DENY GRACE – HE OFFERED IT!

Jesus didn't DENY TRUTH – HE AFFIRMED IT!

If we minimize GRACE – the world sees no HOPE for SALVATION!

If we minimize TRUTH – the world sees no NEED for SALVATION!

WE MUST RECEIVE GRACE... AND THEN WE MUST ACT ON TRUTH!