


Full of Grace and Truth


The Church's Loving Response to the LGBTQ Community



Why is this a difficult and divisive topic?

- The Bible is clear, but we have adopted a progressive vs a biblical worldview
- Because sin has corrupted our own hearts and minds affecting love and judgment
- Because the LGBTQ issue is really about people created in God's image → a friend or your family

The spectrum of how various churches stand on LGBTQ issues

 Welcoming AND Affirming ← → Not Welcoming, Not Affirming

 Another way to say it is - Grace / No Truth ←→ Truth / No Grace




 (Pastor & Drag Queen)  (Texas Pastor) -- **JESUS WOULD NOT DO EITHER OF THESE**

Jesus stands in the midst of this confusion ***FULL of Grace & Truth***


Jesus Was Perfect → Full of **Grace and Truth** → Why not follow his example?

- Joh 1:14 ESV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Joh 1:17 ESV For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

A story from the life of Jesus

 John 8:2-11 ESV Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 **The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery**, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So **what do you say?**"  6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. **Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.** 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "**Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.**" 8 And **once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.**  9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "**Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.**"

Writing in dirt - a heart is deceitful (both in truth with no grace AND grace with no truth)

 Jer 17:9-13 ESV **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick**; who can understand it? 10 "**I the LORD search the heart and test the mind**, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds." 11 Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets riches but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end he will be a fool.

Our hearts have been deeply affected by sin (not only the woman in sin, but the scribes & Pharisees)

- **Deceitful = crooked and polluted**
- **Desperately sick = incurable**
- Jesus searches, or **penetrates our heart and mind - to give to EACH** → **it is easy to become so focused on the sins of others, that we fail to see our own** → take the beam out of your own eye
- Foolishness of getting riches but forgetting justice → focused on riches can't see the throne or fountain

 Jer 17:12 **A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.** 13 O


LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; **those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.**

- All the while a **glorious throne** - set there from the beginning is offering sanctuary
- **A fountain of living water is there**, but it has been forsaken
- Those who turn away from you shall be ***written in the earth***
- **When Jesus stoops 2x to write on the earth, perhaps He is telling this crowd of scribes and Pharisees, THIS IS YOU, a deceitful heart, incurable, there is a glorious throne to turn to, a fountain of living water to drink from - yet you turn away - you see the sins of others but fail to recognize the deceitfulness of your own heart...**
- So Jesus points it out by saying ... Let him without sin cast the first stone


GRACE AND TRUTH

The only way to understand and walk in grace and truth is to come to the the glorious throne of Jesus LORDSHIP, and to drink from the fountain of living water WATER NEVER THIRST AGAIN...otherwise the deception of our heart will direct us more and more toward one of these extremes → truth without grace, or grace without truth

Come to Jesus, Overcome the deceptive heart - Be Full of Grace and Truth



 1Co 6:9-11 ESV Or do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? *Do not be deceived***: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers **will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 And such were some of you. **But you were washed**, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

For those who lean toward TRUTH and struggle with showing GRACE

- **The truth is** those who practice these things WILL NOT INHERIT the kingdom of God
- **This should motivate us toward the gospel rather than becoming the sex police**
 -  John 3:16-17 ESV "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him **should not perish but have eternal life.** 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn the world**, but in order that the **world might be saved** through him.
- **Do not be deceived**, sin of all kinds will keep us from heaven
 - Mat 7:5 Take the log out of your own eye - John 8:7 if you are without sin cast the first stone
- This is a serious warning but a message of HOPE → **SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU**
 - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases His mercy never come to an end
- ANY PERSON, OVERCOME BY ANY SIN, CAN CHANGE
 - **Sexual orientation can change...**2 Cor 5:17 In Christ, new creation, the old is gone, new come

For those who lean toward GRACE at the expense of TRUTH


- Is it loving to allow or even encourage a gay lifestyle knowing this person cannot inherit the kingdom?
 - 1Co 13:6 ESV it ***[love]*** does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but ***[love]*** rejoices with the truth.
- **We must have humility and recognize we too are prone to a deceitful heart**
 - Do you really think you have a greater love, compassion or understanding than God?
- **We shouldn't change truth to fit my lifestyle, instead we must call people to go and sin no more**

-  John 8:31-34 ESV So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**" 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.**
- **True Freedom is not to do whatever I want, it is freedom FROM our greatest master - sin**
- **Salvation calls us to die** Col 3:5 ESV **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- **We must call sin, sin → otherwise how can we find redemption?**
 -  Tit 2:11-14 ESV For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- **Those who are teachers receive greater judgment (Jas 3:1)** -- The Holy Spirit will never lead people to violate the Scripture He inspired (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We cannot affirm what God does not affirm.

What if a homosexual comes to church?

- It has already happened...there have been people in our church who have walked in all kinds of sin...and **we have welcomed, loved and encouraged them** in their relationship with Jesus...**but no one will condone, celebrate or encourage any of these to continue in a life of sin...**
- We are not the sex police - the real issue is not sexuality, it is the Lordship of Jesus, it is relationship with Jesus, it is seeing the glorious throne, drinking from the fountain of living water, if we can lead people to Jesus He will sort it out...

The Church is the OIKOS of God and the Pillar of Truth (Grace & Truth Together)

-  1Ti 3:15 ESV If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the **household** of God, which is the church of the living God, a **pillar and buttress of the truth.**

May Our Church welcome all into the household of God...But may we never compromise truth

- Love and respect each person as created in the image of God - and loved by Him enough to die
- May we be known as a friend of tax collectors and sinners Luk 7:34
- May we keep our focus **on making disciples of All people**
 - The woman at the well tried to fill her life with sexual fulfillment, and Jesus let her know that only He can satisfy, "I will give you water to drink and **YOU WILL NEVER THIRST AGAIN**"
- **If you struggle with same sex attraction and you want to follow Jesus, you are welcome here...all of us struggle with something.** We will accept you, love you and point you to Jesus as your Lord.
- But we cannot not affirm any sin, we will not celebrate a lifestyle that contradicts the way of Jesus...We can only stand under his Lordship submit to His word and in as much humility as awe can we will have grace, compassion, and kindness toward all...I hope we can be known as a friend of sinners

I hope we could say along with Jesus, "neither do I condemn you" and "go and sin no more"

- **May we all find the glorious throne where we can worship Jesus as Lord**
- **May we all find the fountain of living waters, because only HE can satisfy**