

SERMON SERIES: Relation-shift
SPEAKER: Caleb Kaltenbach
DATE: February 10, 2019



Key Line

I need to learn to love people who are different from me, including those with whom I disagree.

Introduction

Today we're talking about two concepts that sometimes seem to be opposites: "grace" and "truth." Give examples/definitions/synonyms for both terms. These can be spiritual or non-spiritual answers. [If you have a whiteboard, you could make two columns to record answers.] Which side do you personally gravitate toward?

Today we'll be looking at a powerful example of Jesus living out both of these concepts, in perfect harmony with each other. Our goal as Christ-followers is to also have grace and truth, not one or the other.

Seek the Word

Read John 8:2-11. Encourage group members to share insights and information from the sermon, along with any other sources. [*For example, Deuteronomy 22:22 (adultery) and Jeremiah 17:13 (Jesus writing in the dirt).*]

Discuss how verse 11 shows both grace ("neither do I condemn you") and truth ("leave your life of sin").

Read John 1:14, which again states how Jesus is the personification of both grace and truth.

Talk About It

Caleb stated: "Love is the tension between grace and truth." Have group members react to that statement. (If you wish, have people discuss the rubber band illustration that Caleb used.)

Caleb shared four ways that can show us "how to live in the tension." Discuss each.

- 1) Change your posture: be known for what you're for, not against. (*ex: stand up for what you believe in, without being a jerk.*)
- 2) A theological conviction shouldn't be a catalyst to treat someone less. (*ex: this is another way to say #1, above.*)
- 3) Think deeper about the person, not differently about theology. (*ex: I don't have to change my beliefs, but I can/should really get to know that person that I might disagree with.*)
- 4) Embrace the difference between acceptance and approval. (*ex: I can accept a person, even if I don't approve of his lifestyle, worldview, etc.*)

God has drawn each of us to Himself, through His love for us. How can each of us help point others to Him, including those we disagree with, by loving them? How could one or more of the four statements above help?

If you care to share, who are some of those people in your life right now?