

The DNA of CBC:
Who We Are and What We're About
Part 1– Reflecting Jesus
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
January 20, 2008

I. Why do truth and grace need to be foundational to CBC?

A. Because Jesus was full of truth and grace and we are called to reflect Christ. (John 1:14, 17; 1 John 2:6)

1. Jesus demonstrates truth and grace to Levi the tax collector. (Luke 5:27-31)
2. Jesus demonstrates truth and grace to the adulterous woman (John 8:1-11)

“Most sinners loved being around Jesus. They enjoyed His company, sought Him out, invited Him to their homes and parties. Today most sinners don’t want to be around Christians. Unbelievers tore off the roof to get to Jesus. Sometimes they crawl out the windows to get away from us! Why is that? What did Jesus show them that we don’t? Grace. People sensed that Jesus loved them, even when He spoke difficult words.”

- From *The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn, p. 19

B. Because the Gospel is full of grace and truth and we are called to proclaim it. (Romans 15:15-16)

1. Truth: We are all sinners (Romans 3:23) and deserve hell (Romans 6:23).
2. Grace: Based on no merit of our own, we are loved, accepted, forgiven and assured of heaven through faith in Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

“You are more flawed and lost than you ever dared to believe, yet you can be more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope at the same time because Jesus Christ lived and died in your place.”

- Tim Keller

“If we minimize grace, the world sees no hope for salvation. If we minimize truth, the world sees no need for salvation. To show the world Jesus, we must offer unabridged grace and truth, emphasizing both, apologizing for neither.”

- From *The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn, p. 87

II. Conclusion:

- A. Truth and grace will impact how we at CBC will relate to the broken and spiritually lost.

“Truth without grace breeds a self-righteous legalism that poisons the church and pushes the world away from Christ. Grace without truth breeds moral indifference and keeps people from seeing their need for Christ.”

- From *The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn, p. 18

“Something’s wrong if all unbelievers hate us. Something’s wrong if all unbelievers like us. If we accurately demonstrate grace AND truth, some will be drawn to us and others will be offended by us—just as they were by Jesus. When we offend everybody, it’s because we’ve taken on the truth mantle without grace. When we offend nobody, it’s because we’ve watered down truth in the name of grace.”

- From *The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn, p. 20

- B. Truth and grace will impact how we relate to one another here at CBC.