

St Martins C3 – May 3, 2026

Grace and Truth – Who is God?

Sermon Notes:

Today we are going to try and answer a very simple question.
Who is God?

Some people see the God of the Old Testament as a God of rules, law and justice. The God of the New Testament as the God of love, grace and forgiveness. What does scripture teach?

God is Full of Grace and Truth

Read Exodus 33:14-34:8

We see both parts of the nature of God on full display here. He has just had the nation of Israel rebel against Him but still begins by emphasizing His love. He then emphasizes that He is a God of justice. Sin and unrighteousness need to be judged, and he is the only one able and righteous to judge that sin!

God is full of grace. God is full of truth.

Jesus is Full of Grace and Truth

Read John 1:14; John 5:1-14; Matthew 16:13-23; John 8:1-11

John 1:14 is telling us that this revelation of God's glory – like the one Moses experienced – is the person of Jesus, full of grace and truth. Jesus showed truth – talked of sin, wrath and repentance. He showed grace – he is love, he is grace. He miraculously healed, he forgave, he walked with people.

Jesus is full of grace. Jesus is full of truth.

The Holy Spirit is Full of Grae and Truth

Read Romans 5:5; John 16:8

The Holy Spirit doesn't just bring the grace of God. He convicts us of sin and God's righteousness. He leads us into truth.

The Holy Spirit is full of grace and truth.

There is only one God and he acts consistently throughout the Bible. This gives us confidence in coming to Him and seek to be like Him in our lives. Consider these three ways:

1- Personal Growth

We need to grow in both areas. Grace without truth is hurtful! Truth without grace is wrong! Make a determination to grow in whatever area you are weakest.

2- To those Outside the Church

Yes, there is such a thing as sin, and yes sin will always damage people, but it is our job to live the truth and respond to others with grace. Hold to the truth and treat others with grace. May we be that kind of church.

3- To those Closest to Us

Consider how you can bring grace and truth with others in the church, with your children and with your spouse or other important people in your life.

Grace and Truth. It is foundational to who God is. It is the cornerstone of what it is to live as a disciple of Jesus.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

God is both completely full of grace and truth. We must be too.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

Why do you think people often see grace and truth as opposites rather than inseparable?

Which picture of God—grace-focused or truth-focused—have you most naturally leaned toward, and why?

How does God's self-description in Exodus 34 challenge or expand your understanding of Him?

The sermon says "grace without truth is hurtful, and truth without grace is wrong." How have you seen this play out in real life?

In what relationships do you find it hardest to hold both grace and truth together?

Which area of your life right now needs more grace—or more truth—from God?

What would it look like this week to intentionally reflect God's grace and truth to someone else?

Monday Devotion: SOAP Bible Study

God introduces Himself not as distant or harsh, but as compassionate, patient, and faithful. This defining moment shows that grace and truth are foundational to who God is, not optional traits. Begin the week by reflecting on how God describes Himself rather than how you assume He is.

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-34:8

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion

Jesus makes the invisible God visible. In Him, grace and truth are no longer abstract ideas but embodied realities. As you read, consider how Jesus' life shows you what God is truly like.

Scripture

John 1:14

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion

Peter's confession is affirmed with grace, yet moments later, Peter resists God's plan, and is rebuked. Following Jesus means embracing both His grace and His hard truth, especially the way of the cross.

Scripture

Matthew 16:13-23

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion

This psalm looks forward to the moment when unfailing love and truth meet perfectly. The cross is the fulfilment of this vision, where God's righteousness and peace embrace. Reflect on how the cross reshapes your understanding of both sin and forgiveness.

Scripture

Psalm 85

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion

God's discipline is described not as punishment, but as loving training from a Father who cares deeply for His children. Grace sustains us through the process, while truth shapes us into who God intends us to be.

Scripture

Hebrews 12:3-11

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
