

# Resolved to Engage the Culture

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, January 19, 2020; Steve Thiel

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Sermon Theme: How do we respond to a culture of hatred and death, racism and abortion? We follow Jesus' example, who is truth and speaks truth, and also extends grace. Therefore, our lives should be saturated with grace and truth as we engage the world!

## **I. Jesus Embodies Grace and Truth – Read John 1:1-17**

- A. How do the “I AM” statements in John demonstrate that Jesus is God and, therefore, is truth? How do you respond to Jesus speaking truth to the religious leaders in Matthew 23:1-36?
- B. How is Jesus’ interaction with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21) and the woman at the well (John 4:7-42) a wonderful demonstration and example of speaking truth and offering grace?
- C. How is Jesus’ interaction with doubting Thomas (John 20:24-29) and Peter (John 21:1-25) a glorious picture of grace? How does He specifically accommodate them in these passages?

## **II. Jesus Extends Grace and Truth – Read Psalm 139:1-16**

- A. Psalm 139 highlights that God knows everything about you from before you were born until after you die. Why might that be a terrifying idea? Why might that be very encouraging?
- B. How does Ephesians 1:3-10 and 2:1-10 highlight that salvation and sanctification are all of grace? What are some practical things that you can do to be overwhelmed by God’s grace?
- C. How can remembering where you came from as a sinner saved by grace help orient yourself rightly toward other people? How can regularly recalling this reality help you grow in humility, compassion, and patience?

## **III. Jesus Empowers Grace and Truth – Read John 8:31-38**

- A. As you think about Jesus’ statement in John 8, what do you think it means that true believers in Christ know the truth and the truth will set them free? What freedom is Jesus referring to?
- B. As you think about engaging the culture, are you more of a truth teller or a grace giver? On which end of the spectrum do you typically fall? Why do you think that is?
- C. Where do you think you need to grow the most with regard to speaking truth on the difficult topic of abortion? Clarity or courage? In what contexts do you find it most difficult to share?
- D. In what ways would you like to grow in modeling grace on these difficult topics? In what ways would you like to grow in offering grace? Praying more or sharing the gospel more?