

PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



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Grace and Truth

Ben Wallis
Director of Spiritual Life

I want to begin by thanking each of you for making our family's first year at Prince such a special year! The ways in which many of you have embraced our family to welcome us into the Greater Wolverine Family are truly remarkable...again, thank you so very much! It really is an honor to be one of you.

"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." (John 1:14)

As parents, the primary question that we all face is how to prepare our children to, not only survive in an increasingly secularized culture, but actually impact our surrounding culture for the Kingdom of God. I believe that one of the greatest tools that we can give our children is to teach them to live in the tension between grace and truth. I call this a tension because, many times, grace and truth seem to be at odds with one another...and many times, we find ourselves "preferring" one side of that spectrum over the other. For these reasons, grace and truth do present a tight tension. However, when we read John's description of who Jesus Christ was/is and how He came to live among His creation, Jesus is described in John 1:14 as being "full of grace and truth." Jesus came with 100% grace and 100% truth... He was full of grace, and full of truth.

In John 4, we read about Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman. This woman clearly had a bad reputation... especially in the area of men. This woman's reputation probably explains why she was drawing water from the town's well around noon as opposed to much earlier in the day when the other women of the town drew their water... she simply did not want to be judged, scorned, ridiculed, or openly ignored. I cannot help but think that the woman was surprised to see Jesus resting against the well, and even more surprised that He would ask her for a drink of water and then continue to talk to her. In the midst



of their conversation, Jesus told this woman, ***"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*** Immediately this woman wanted this water, still thinking that Jesus was speaking of physical water and not yet grasping the spiritual ramifications of Jesus' words. Upon her request for this water, Jesus told her to go get her husband and to bring him back to the well. When the woman told Jesus that she did not have a husband, Jesus replied, ***"You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."*** Here in this exchange, we clearly see Jesus living in the tension between grace (***"...whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again..."***) and truth (***"...for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."***). We can continue to read on in John 4 about how not only was this woman's life transformed by Jesus, but through her testimony many people in her town trusted in Jesus as well. Here's the point: if Jesus came with just grace but no truth, this Samaritan woman may have wrongly assumed that Jesus was just another man pursuing her...and her life would not have been transformed and many in her village would not have trusted in Jesus. If Jesus came with just truth but no grace, this Samaritan woman may have wrongly assumed that Jesus was just another man judging her...and her life would not have been transformed and many in her village would not have trusted in Jesus. But, because Jesus came

full of grace AND truth, transformation came to that Samaritan village!

As parents, what will set our children apart and make them distinctively different from the world around them is an ability to demonstrate grace without compromising truth and expressing truth in a way that is full of grace. I hope you know that we, as a school, are committed to pouring into your children the vast importance of living in this tension. And our prayer is that as you and your family prepare to embark on the Summer Break, you intentionally look for opportunities to actively engage your children in the significance of living full of grace and full of truth.

