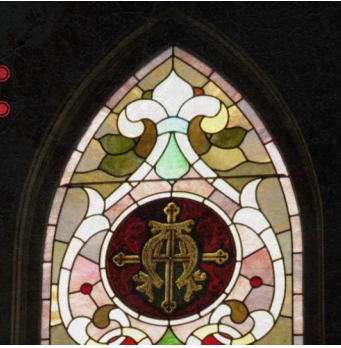


# CHRISTIAN:

it's not what you think



John 1:14-18

context:

line by line:

application:

It's Messy  
5.5.2013

## Study Questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

### INTRODUCTION

Jesus calls his followers to love the way he loved. But as recorded in the Gospels, there's a tension in the way he loved—it was messy, inconsistent, unfair, and confusing. At times, he pointed out sin; at times, he seemed to ignore it.

Our temptation is to try to resolve the tension created around Jesus' love. But if we try, we lose something important, something essential.

### WEEKLY READING

The tension in Jesus' love was between truth and grace. It's the tension between being sinners and being forgiven. Jesus was comfortable with that tension. He was willing to minister through it.

Throughout this series, we've said that Jesus calls his followers to love one another. If you want to know what Jesus meant by "loving one another," watch how he loved. **Read together John 1:14-18** and see how that all worked out...

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had to share a difficult truth with someone at work, in your family, or at church? Were you graceful in the way you communicated? How did that affect the way the person responded?
2. People focused on truth worry that others will get away with something, while those focused on grace worry that they might make others feel bad about themselves. Which better describes you? How does that affect the way you think about God and faith?
3. In your interactions with Christians, have you mostly experienced judgment, a wishy-washy avoidance of biblical truth, or a mix of truth and grace? Explain.
4. Read John 4:1–26. What do you find most startling about this story? What about it makes you uncomfortable? What about it is reassuring?
5. Read John 8:1–11. Talk about how Jesus navigates the tension between truth and grace in verses 10 and 11. Is it significant that Jesus tells the woman he doesn't condemn her *before* he commands her to leave her life of sin? Why or why not?
6. In the message, Dwain talked about some complex issues of our day that touch many families (divorce, sexuality, etc.). What was your response to those stories? Which did it challenge more, your commitment to truth or to grace? How so?

### MOVING FORWARD

If Jesus is the embodiment of grace and truth, and the church is his body, then we have to be comfortable with the mess, the tension. The church is at its best when it embraces God's grace and truth and refuses to let go of either.

### PRAYER

Ask Jesus to help your friends in your group, and your whole Church family to live like Jesus did and to truly be his body. Let's pray that God will help us to manage that tension.

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* **John 1:14**

