

From his fullness we have all received

I. Jesus - full of grace and truth

John 1,14-18

- a) *The radiance of Jesus* – looking at people with eyes shining with truth and grace in a common focus, John 8,1-11.
The religious leaders of his time - a one-eyed view of truth, therefore often condemning others
- b) *The interplay between grace and truth* – common focus (synopsis) important for two reasons:
 - we need to learn to look at people with the same view as Jesus
 - we need to learn to look at ourselves with both truth and grace
- c) *A one-eyed view at truth in other peoples lifes.* What is typical for us?
Do we forget that we, ourselves, are utterly dependent of Gods grace every day? Matt 7,3.
Jesus has demonstrated that the innermost being of God is radiating both truth and grace, John 1,18
- d) *A one-eyed view of grace?* Is this possible? A willingness to excuse and accept peoples lifestyle in a way that denies what is right and just according to the will of God.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Cheap grace*. Grace without consequences, without repentance.
- e) *Conflict between grace and justice?* Do we have to chose one or the other?
The grace of Jesus is *costly* – because through his life, death and resurrection he atoned for the sin of the world, and so brought about divine justice and righteousness for all human beings.

Jesus wants to touch our eyes and heal our one-sightedness – so that we may look at other people with his view.

- f) *A one-eyed view of truth upon myself?* A self criticism without grace? Seeing all of my own weaknesses. Loosing joy and boldnes in my life.
He knows the *truth* better than we do ourselves. He sees deeper into our selfish and sinfull nature – but he is also looking at us with *grace*. Psalm 5,13.
Seeking God with all your heart? Jer 29,13f. How can we manage? Is this not our problem; that our hearts are divided? But - seek God with all that is in your heart.
- g) *A one-eyed view of grace upon myself?* Shutting my eye for the compromises and the half-truths in my own life. When God is searching my heart and my life, I make excuses, and comforts myself that God is, after all, full of grace.
A relationship to Jesus can not be confined to his grace, we do also have to relate to his truth. And this is what can set us free, John 8,32.

Jesus knows the truth about my whole life – and I may dare to look upon this truth and relate to it, without feeling condemned by God – because of the fullness of his grace.