

SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES
PART 2
BALANCING GRACE AND TRUTH

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

What are the secrets of successful families?

1. Successful families establish proper priorities for their family.

Matthew 22:36–39 (NKJV)

³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

³⁷Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

³⁸This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

What priorities must we establish and enforce in our life?

God

Family

Church

2. Successful families balance grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- Relationships of truth without grace dry up.
- Relationships of grace without truth blow up.
- Relationships of truth and grace grow up.

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What is grace? What is truth?

Grace

Forgiveness flows from grace.
Favor flows from grace.
Mercy and compassion flow from grace.

Truth

Truth is what is real. It describes how things really are.
Truth is what is accurate and right.

The need for both

Truth is

Rules, discipline, parameters, confrontation, objectivity, consequences, and the Word of God

Truth without grace

Harsh and demanding
Perfectionistic
Authoritarian
Critical
Legalistic

Truth without grace produces

A wrong concept of God “distant, uncaring, harsh”
Low self esteem
Rebellion and resentment
Unhealthy drive to achieve
Rejection – “I don’t measure up”
Condemnation/ self hate
Legalism

Grace is

Affection, acceptance, praise, love, forgiveness, and mercy

Grace without truth

Naïve
Lacking supervision
Little or no discipline
Permissive
Without standards

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Grace without truth produces:

A wrong concept of God “weak, conforming to me, anything goes”.

Disrespect of authority

Selfishness

Confusion

False comfort

Deception

Proverbs 3:3–4 (NKJV)

³Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

⁴And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.