

# When Truth Has a Face

John 14:6

STANDING FIRM IN THE TRUTH • JUNE '26 SERMON SERIES



**BIG IDEA:** Truth isn't a list of positions. It's a Person — Jesus doesn't just teach the truth, he is the truth, full of grace, and no one comes to the Father except through him.

## 1 I AM THE TRUTH (JOHN 14:6)

- The upper room, the night before the cross. Thomas's honest confusion draws out the staggering claim — not "I will teach you the truth" but "I am the truth." He's not scoring 100% on the truth test; he's the standard the test is graded against.
- No middle ground (Lewis, Mere Christianity). Good teachers say "follow my teaching." Jesus says "follow me." Either it's the most important sentence you'll ever hear, or it's madness. What it cannot be is one more opinion in the marketplace.
- "No one... except" isn't a wall built to keep people out. It's an open door with a universal invitation — no qualifier on who may come. The narrowest-sounding verse in the Bible carries the widest welcome in the world.

**John 14:6 CSB** *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

**John 14:5 CSB** *"Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"*

**KEY TRUTH:** Truth isn't a category Jesus fits into. Jesus is the category — everything else is true or false by how it lines up with him.

## FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 1

John 14:6 — "I am the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_."

John 14:6 — "No one comes to the \_\_\_\_\_ except \_\_\_\_\_ me."

John 18:38 — "What is \_\_\_\_\_?" said \_\_\_\_\_ — then he walked out.

## 2 THE WORD BECAME FLESH (JOHN 1:14)

- "Dwelt" means pitched his tent. The God who filled the wilderness tabernacle with glory tabernacled in a human body in Galilee. The truth at the foundation of the universe got up one morning in Nazareth and put on sandals.
- Truth is concrete, not cold. Truth got tired at a well, slept in a boat, wept at Lazarus's tomb, and cooked breakfast for men who had abandoned him. Whatever the truth about grief and loss is, it isn't a syllogism.
- Because truth is a Person, knowing it is a relationship — open to the scholar, the child, and the eighth-grade education alike. You can't continue in a fact. You can walk with a Person for a lifetime.

**John 1:14 CSB** *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory... full of grace and truth.*

**John 1:1 CSB** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**KEY TRUTH:** A proposition can be correct. A Person can come looking for you when you're lost. The truth moved into the neighborhood because the truth wanted us.

## FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 2

John 1:14 — "The Word became \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ among us."

John 1:14 — "We observed his \_\_\_\_\_... full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."

John 1:1 — "In the beginning was the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Word was \_\_\_\_\_."

## 3 GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH HIM (JOHN 1:16-17)

- The law was given through Moses — a gift carried in a courier's hands. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. When Jesus arrived, God didn't send a package. He came in person.

- The two things we can almost never hold together: all-truth wins arguments and wounds people; all-grace flatters a soul right up to the edge of the cliff. Jesus walks the crown of the road — full of both at once.
- John 8:11 — grace at full strength ("neither do I condemn you") and truth at full strength ("do not sin anymore") in one breath. At the cross both meet without either giving an inch. That's why no one comes except through him.

**John 1:16–17 CSB** *Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

**John 8:11 CSB** *"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."*

**KEY TRUTH:** Truth, full strength. Grace, full strength. One Person, with nails through his hands, holding them together for us.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS — SECTION 3

John 1:17 — "the law was \_\_\_\_\_ through Moses; grace and truth \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ."

John 1:16 — "we have all received \_\_\_\_\_ upon \_\_\_\_\_ from his fullness"

John 8:11 — "Neither do I \_\_\_\_\_ you... do not \_\_\_\_\_ anymore."

### APPLICATION

Take one. Carry it into the week.

- One better answer** — When someone shrugs, "Who can say what's true?" this week, don't reach for a list. Answer with a Who. You're not defending a system; you're introducing a friend.
- One ditch to name** — Be honest about which way you drift: all truth or all grace. Pick one relationship this week and bring the half you usually leave out — full strength.
- One direction to move** — Everyone is somewhere on the road between Pilate and Thomas. Name one concrete step this week that moves you toward "My Lord and my God!"

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pilate asked, "What is truth?" while looking truth in the face — and walked out without waiting for an answer. Where in our culture does the same thing happen today? Where are we tempted to?
2. When the world asks what's true, we often answer with a list of positions. What changes — in tone and in result — when our answer is a Person instead?
3. Truth got tired at a well, wept at a tomb, made breakfast on a beach. Which of these concrete moments means the most to you when life gets hard — and why?
4. Truth without grace wounds; grace without truth misleads. Which ditch do you naturally drift toward? Which one do we drift toward as a congregation?
5. John 14:6 sounds like the narrowest verse in the Bible, yet it carries the widest welcome in the world. How would you explain that to a friend who calls it arrogant?

### MY TAKEAWAY

#### ANSWER KEY

S1: way · truth · life · Father · through · truth · Pilate

S2: flesh · dwelt · glory · grace · truth · Word · God

S3: given · came · grace · grace · condemn · sin