

*How blessed I am, LORD. You prompt me to come into Your presence in prayer.*

*Align my heart with Yours, Father. Let me walk each step with You.*

*I'm so grateful to You, Jesus ~ for the living scriptures portraying Your life here as man. Abounding in love. Strengthened by compassion. Yet You never sacrifice the truth. You cast the light that brings sin out of the shadows. You stir the soul with the realization of our need for You. You do this even today. Thank You, Jesus!*

*This balance between grace and truth ~ between love and law ~ is a big challenge for me. At times I'm so angry with my loved one that I spew and lecture. I nag over every shortcoming. Then other times I excuse the behavior or ignore the boundaries I've worked so hard to set. Please help me be consistent. Fill me with forgiveness and kindness, Lord ~ yet give me strength not to interfere with the difficult consequences my loved one faces.*

*How does anyone get through life without You, LORD? I need You!*

*I am forever grateful to come to You, Father God, through the precious Name of Jesus. ~ Amen!*

Jesus showed the perfect balance of grace and truth. While we still miss the mark of perfection, our aim is His balance. Be united as you discern the balance between loving your loved one yet refusing to condone his or her choices. Ask yourself, “Where do I draw the line? Will offering hospitality communicate that I don't take these choices seriously?”

Communicating truth with love will look different for every family. Many cases call for a strong dose of tough love—gently, but firmly refusing to socialize with your wayward loved one as long as they continue to embrace sin.

Prayerfully consider how you can show love without sacrificing truth. Whatever course you choose, be firm. Rebellious hearts may want to push limits, often to see just how resolved about them you are. Be kind, but uncompromising when it comes to your standards.

Whatever boundaries your family chooses to create, be sure to communicate your love and strive to build healthy relationships. Diligently, in every interaction, work to speak the truth and show grace.

~ Kelly Arabie

*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** ~

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,  
Forgiving one another,  
Even as God in Christ forgave you.*

~ **Ephesians 4:32** ~

*But I am saying that you shouldn't act  
as if everything is just fine when one of your  
Christian companions is promiscuous or crooked,  
is flip with God or rude to friends,  
gets drunk or becomes greedy and predatory.  
You can't just go along with this,  
treating it as acceptable behavior.*

~ **1 Corinthians 5:11** ~

(The Message)