





COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: It is only by endeavoring to look sin straight in the face that we are able to understand grace.

HEAD CHANGE: Engaging culture with the full weight of sin doesn't need to be embarrassing, it is necessary.

HEART CHANGE: Nothing that we despise in others is entirely absent from ourselves.

LIFE CHANGE: A healthy and proper understanding of sin leads to our deep need for our Savior.

OVERVIEW

Sin & Grace

It is not hard to see why Christians would shy away from sin and judgement in our attempts to engage constructively in the debates and questions of our age. Our culture attacks sin and judgement as hate speech, leaving Christians confused, embarrassed and in denial about foundational biblical truths. We are told that doctrines of sin and judgement are not just misguided but downright dangerous or evil. But we agree with Fleming Rutledge who wrote, "It is only by endeavoring to look sin straight in the face that we are able to understand grace."

John 8:4-11 (NLT) - "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated?
2. Is it easier for you to talk about your own sin, the sin you see displayed in others, or the general sin in this world? Why do you think you answered that way?
3. Pastor Jordan said, "The doctrine of sin is a social glue, insisting that despite the things that divide us, all human beings are equal before God as sinners guilty before their Creator." Do you agree? If so, how is this applied in your own life? Attempt to recreate this statement in your own words.
4. Read John 8:1-11. Consider how Jesus may have felt fear from helping this woman when all of the 'reputable' religious leaders were scorning her. Have you ever felt the guilt of association before? Is there anyone or any people group that you sense "the Church" is afraid of reaching today in fear of being seen as guilty by association?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. We recognize that you are in control. Give us grace to hunger for your words more than those of anyone else. We accept your truth as the supreme authority in our lives. Teach us to see sin & grace as you do. In Jesus name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!