



## Living for God in an Ungodly Culture

Part 13

**Ice Breaker:** National Ice Cream Day was this week!! What is your favorite Ice Cream? If you don't like Ice Cream, ask your group to pray for you!!

**Read Together:** John 8:1-11

As we close out this series, it is important for us to remember a few things:

1. True Followers of Jesus approach the Bible as *THE* Truth, not *A* Truth.
2. We want to ask God for the courage to stand like Daniel did.
3. As we stand, we **ALSO** want to reach others with the hope that God has given us!

This week, Jason talked about the woman caught in adultery. She was brought to Jesus to try to bait Him into saying the wrong thing. For anyone but Jesus, this would have been a **VERY** sticky situation, but we see Jesus act in such wisdom and brilliance! Jesus knew the hypocrisy of the lives that the Pharisees lived and the response that Jesus gave, exposed their hypocrisy.

### **Personal Reflection:**

- What things has God exposed as areas of hypocrisy in your life?
- Have you ever felt self-righteous?
- These are things that are **VERY** hard to admit. What ways has God equipped you to overcome hypocrisy and self-righteousness?

### **Three Options to Reach Those in Need of Forgiveness From God**

1. Condemn -- "*You are too far gone.*"

#### **Discuss:**

- Who are the people in your life that you feel are too far gone?
- If you cannot think of a particular person, what types of people would you consider too far gone if you saw them acting out their sin.
- What lifestyles do you tend to view as worse than other sins?
- Have you ever prayed for judgement on others?
- Ask God to give you **HIS** eyes to see with compassion when a person is beyond what you can extend grace for.

2. Condone -- "*You are just fine the way you are.*"

#### **Discuss:**

- God is love. Have you ever used that phrase to help someone feel better about sinning?

- What are the things you want to justify in our culture?
- Who are the people you are afraid will reject God if you speak up with truth?
- Have you ever “rewritten” some of the scripture to make a sin seem less sinful?

3. Compassionate confrontation -- “*You are loved by God and in need of forgiveness.*”

There must be a better way to interact with our culture that is a middle ground between condemning and condoning sin!!! Jesus shows us in this story by acknowledging the women’s sin, and forgiving her, and challenging her to live according to His commands. He does this in one very simple statement: “Now go and sin no more.”

**Discuss:**

- All of us have sinned. We are LOVED by God, but we are in NEED of forgiveness from God. How can we absorb this in our own lives?
- Do you ever forget that you need a Savior?
- Jesus never condemned her. He never condoned her behavior by saying it was fine. You know what He did do? He took a step and interacted with her with compassionate confrontation. He doesn’t compromise His beliefs or what is true. He extends His grace to her.
- What is one way you can practice this action of Jesus this week?

**Pray together:**

*Father,*

*We admit our need for You. We want to reach the world around us, but it is difficult sometimes. Please forgive us for the times we have been judgmental and harsh in our convictions and the way we hold others to them. Please forgive us for the times we have excused sin because we didn’t want to start a fight or lose a friend. Please forgive us for the times we have misinterpreted Your Word and used it wrongly to justify our actions or the actions of someone we love. Please show us how to minister to others with compassionate confrontation. Please give us Your words to reach those you love. We know that it is not Your will that ANYONE would perish. Help us to love in such a way that we don’t condemn or condone. Help our lives, our actions and our words to be ones of compassionate confrontation so that LOVE and HOPE is felt. Bring the people in our sphere of influence into Your Kingdom with joy. We ask you to help us. Teach us today.*

*In the name of Jesus! Amen!*