



**"Grace & Truth"**  
Cathy Burkholder // June 23-24, 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

Nothing is more humiliating than being caught in an act of disobedience! Whether it's a child with his hand in the cookie jar or an adult driving over the speed limit, we all know the sinking feeling of being caught. In John 8, a woman is caught in the most awkward of situations—in the very act of adultery. The way Jesus responds to the woman and also to her accusers surprises everyone, even those of us hearing or reading the story today. How might we have responded?

**WARMING UP**

Take 30 seconds each to share a phrase or a moment from this weekend's message that is still resonating with you.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Read John 8:1-11.

1. Place yourself in this scene. What would be the emotions of the woman as she is "caught in the act" of adultery? As she is marched to the temple court? What would you be thinking as part of the crowd gathered around Jesus when this scene unfolds?
2. Think about a time where you were "caught" – when your sin or wrongdoing was exposed for others to see. How did you feel? What did you want more than anything at that moment? What happened?
3. Why do you think it's so natural for people to assume that God is quick to judge and condemn them? To what extent has that assumption shaped your relationship with God?
4. **Refer back to verses 7-10.** After Jesus springs the trap in verse 7, why do you think the Pharisees and teachers leave rather than stone the woman? What would the woman guilty of adultery have felt?
5. What is the significance of Jesus' question to the woman in verse 10? What was Jesus' attitude toward her? Was he condoning the woman's sin by not condemning her in verse 11? According to the story, what should our response to sin be? How might we offer Christ's forgiveness and mercy to those who are singled out in society?
6. **Read Romans 8:1** as a group – "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus." Do you live like this is true? How would truly believing this transform your daily life?
7. **"Go now and leave your life of sin."** John 8:11b. How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face some of the sins you struggle with? Jesus loves and accepts us "as is". Does that free you to change? Why? Is it difficult for you to believe that, through Jesus, you have the power to leave your sin behind you? Why or why not?

**CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK:**

This week, think about what stones you are carrying in judgement of a family member, friend, co-worker or group. Pray and ask God to show you how you can extend grace, a caring attitude—and if God opens the door, to help them leave their sin behind.

**PRAY ABOUT IT**

Ask the Holy Spirit to point out dark areas in your life where you need to trade condemnation for Jesus' mercy and light. Pray together as a group and invite Jesus to free you.

Ask God to show you who needs encouragement, forgiveness, and grace this week and find a way to extend it to them. Pray for CPC to be a welcoming church known for extending grace and truth.