

Grace Really Is AMAZING!

A Quick Look Back: *The Elephant In The Passage*

A Woman Caught In Sin: Literally

John 8:1-11/ Matthew 7:1-5

Two words that have lost their meaning:

CONDEMN and **TOLERANCE**

How To Respond To...

OUR OWN SIN

James 1:14-15 & Isaiah 5:20/ James 5:16/ John 8:7, Matthew 7:1-5, & James 2:13

1. Call your **SIN, SIN**.
2. If your struggle continues, get **HELP**.
3. Never harshly condemn those who **STRUGGLE** with your **STRUGGLE**.

THE SIN OF A FELLOW JESUS FOLLOWER

Romans 1:28-31/ 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15, 1 Corinthians 5:11-12/ 1 Samuel 2:27-29

1. Avoid **GOSSIP** and **SLANDER** like the plague.
2. **HELP** those who struggle.
CONFRONT those who make excuses.
AVOID those who set up camp.

THE SIN OF A NON-CHRISTIAN

1 Corinthians 5:12/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26

1. Don't try to make **NON-CHRISTIANS** live like **CHRISTIANS**.
2. Point them to **JESUS**, not a **MORAL CODE**.

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Two words that have lost their meaning:

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1. Avoid _____ and _____ like the plague.
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THE SIN OF A NON-CHRISTIAN

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1. Don't try to make _____ live like _____.
2. Point them to _____, not a _____.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of May 7, 2023

QUICK REVIEW

Larry shared a challenging message that asked us to truly consider our own sins as we look at the sins of others. As you look back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, something that caught your attention, challenged how you will live your life going forward or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What is one of your biggest pet peeves (it could be pen clicking, gum chewing, littering, talking during movies)? Do you usually say something, roll your eyes, complain to a friend about it or just endure it?
2. Larry mentioned how we are to deal with our own sin and the sin of other Christians and gave us helpful principles we can apply to real life situations. Which of the principles stuck out to you the most and why? What would it look like for you to apply that principle this week?

DIGGING DEEPER

This weekend we saw that, when Jesus takes a step toward someone, the first step He often takes is love and compassion. We are called to be wise and discerning as Christians, and as Larry reminded us, we must be able to call a sin a sin. Typically, we can pick out inconsistencies and faults in others, and that's something we do easily. Scripture shows us what we should do first as we consider responding to one another.

1. Read through Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 2:1-4 and underline all the reasons why we should not be harsh toward others but compassionate instead.

Matthew 7:1-5 New International Version (NIV)

7 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ²For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Romans 2:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

According to Matthew 7:1-5, what should be our first response when we clearly see a fellow Christian doing something not in agreement with God's Word? Why do you think we can fall into the trap of seldom doing this first?

When you think about sins, what would be types of sins we might consider specks? What would be sins we may consider logs? What might be a reason someone doesn't see the logs in their own life, only the specks in others?

What would be the benefit of remembering the passages above the next time you interact with someone who you see sinning, both for you personally and for the other person?

2. We all have a past, and that past can haunt us, but Jesus frees us from that shame and condemnation and offers us grace and mercy. As you read through Colossians 3:5-11, circle all the areas on the list that you may have struggled with in the past or may even be currently struggling with. Now read Colossians 3:12-14 and circle or underline who we are now and how we now respond to one another.

Colossians 3:5-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Colossians 3:12-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

We can often feel stuck personally but also keep others labeled as who they were in their past. What do you think it means to "bear with one another" when faced with a fellow Christian's sin?

Have you ever had a friend who forgave you when you knew you blew it? How did their response strengthen your friendship? What did it feel like to be forgiven by them?

TAKING IT HOME

One of the things we see from this study is that we need others to see the specks in our lives and to bear with us in our struggles. What can you do to be a better friend for someone in your life this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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