

Summary

In this sermon, the pastor explores John 8:1-11, the account of the woman caught in adultery, to unpack the reality of sin, condemnation, and the grace of Jesus Christ. He emphasizes that all people have sinned and fall short of God's glory, and that sin carries real consequences before a holy God. Rather than minimizing wrongdoing as mere mistakes, the pastor calls the congregation to honest self-reflection and an understanding that guilt and shame are meant to drive us toward God, not away from Him. He draws a clear distinction between the devil's condemnation, which pushes us away from God, and the Holy Spirit's conviction, which draws us back to Him.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for Your grace and the truth of Your Word. As we gather together, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive whatever You have for us in this time. Remove any pride, shame, or distraction that might keep us from hearing Your voice clearly. Holy Spirit, convict us where we need to be convicted, comfort us where we need comfort, and lead us into a deeper understanding of Your love and forgiveness. May this discussion draw us closer to You and to one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you enjoy doing that always seems to lift your spirits when you are feeling down or discouraged?

Key Verses

1. John 8:1-11 English Standard Version (ESV)
2. Romans 3:23 English Standard Version (ESV)
3. John 3:17-21 English Standard Version (ESV)
4. 1 John 3:20 English Standard Version (ESV)
5. Revelation 12:10-11 English Standard Version (ESV)
6. John 14:6 English Standard Version (ESV)

Questions

1. The pastor described sin as more than just a mistake, saying it is committed against God's word, law, and principles. How does viewing sin in that way change how you think about your own choices and their consequences?
2. The sermon drew a distinction between the devil's condemnation and the Holy Spirit's conviction. In your own experience, how have you been able to tell the difference between the two, and how

did each one affect your response?

3. The pastor pointed out that the religious leaders who brought the woman to Jesus were focused on her sin while ignoring their own. How do we guard against that same tendency in our own relationships and communities?
4. Jesus stooped down and wrote in the earth, and the pastor connected this to Jeremiah 17:13, suggesting He was writing the names of those who had forsaken the Lord. What does it mean to you personally that forsaking God is treated as a serious offense, not just outward moral failure?
5. The pastor said that God convicts us to draw us back to Him, not to push us away. Have you ever experienced a moment where conviction led you to a turning point in your faith? What did that look like?
6. The woman in the passage called Jesus 'Lord' after her accusers left. The pastor connected this to the thief on the cross who also called Jesus Lord. What does it mean to you to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, especially in a moment of personal failure or shame?
7. Jesus told the woman to 'go and sin no more.' The pastor explained that forgiveness is an opportunity to change, not just a removal of guilt. How do you personally approach the call to change after receiving God's forgiveness?
8. The pastor said that some people avoid church and God because they feel too ashamed of what they have done. How can we as a group create an environment where people feel safe enough to come to God and to us with their struggles?

Life Application

This week, take time to sit quietly before God and honestly bring before Him one area of your life where you have been carrying guilt, shame, or condemnation. Confess it to Him directly, trusting in 1 John 1:9 that He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you. Then, take one practical step toward change in that area, whether that means reaching out to a trusted friend for accountability, removing a temptation from your environment, or simply committing to a daily moment of prayer and Scripture reading. Let the forgiveness you receive from God be the starting point for a genuine new direction, not just a moment of relief.

Key Takeaways

1. All people have sinned and stand in need of God's grace. There is no level of moral achievement that places anyone above the need for Jesus Christ.
2. There is an important difference between the devil's condemnation, which drives us away from God in shame, and the Holy Spirit's conviction, which draws us back to God for healing and restoration.
3. Jesus does not condone sin, but He also did not come to condemn sinners. He came to offer salvation, forgiveness, and a genuine new beginning to all who turn to Him as Lord.
4. The blood of Jesus Christ is what disarms the accusations of the enemy. When we place our faith in what Jesus did on the cross, the condemnation we deserve is fully covered.

5. Repentance is not simply saying no to sin. It is saying yes to God, embracing His truth, and allowing His forgiveness to lead to a transformed life.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the truth we have explored together today. Thank You that You did not come into this world to condemn us, but to save us. We are grateful that Your blood covers every sin we have committed and that Your grace is greater than any guilt or shame we carry. As we leave this time together, we ask that Your Holy Spirit continue to work in each of our hearts, drawing us closer to You and giving us the courage to walk in the freedom You have purchased for us. Help us to extend to others the same grace You have shown to us, and may our lives reflect the transformation that only comes through knowing You. We love You, Lord, and we trust You with every part of who we are. In Jesus name, Amen.