



bigIdea

Craig Groeschel writes, “I love Christ. It’s His followers who make me crazy!” Gandhi, who didn’t know Jesus Christ, said this, “I like your Christ but I don’t like your Christians; They are so unlike your Christ.” Bono said, “Christians are difficult to tolerate. I don’t know how Jesus does it.” Great question, Bono! An even better question is this: “How does Jesus put up with me?” Because of all of the hypocritical judgmental Christians I know, I am at the top.

BIG IDEA: Christians should be known by who we are for, not what we oppose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time in which you were caught *red-handed* doing something you shouldn’t have.

Suppose, for a moment, that the woman in the story wasn’t an adulteress. Suppose that she was a lesbian or a woman who had an abortion or a drunk driver or a prostitute. That can put the pharisaical shoe on the other foot, can’t it?

2. If one of those possibilities had been the scenario in John 8, would that change your attitude towards the Pharisees? Towards the woman? Towards Jesus? If so, why?
3. Why did the Pharisees resist God’s forgiveness? Why do we sometimes resist God’s forgiveness?
4. Imagine that you are this woman. What would you have *expected* to see in Jesus’ eyes? What is running through your mind?
5. Why do we so easily judge others? What does James 4:11-12 have to say about this tendency?
6. Does this passage in John 8 mean that Jesus doesn’t think sin is a big deal? Why or why not?
7. Jesus accepts you “as is.” Does that free you to change, or does it support your bad behavior? How so?

THINK ABOUT IT

Sometimes, with particular sins, we Christians are a little more reluctant to drop our stones, a little more ready to condemn, and a little less glad to hear Jesus say, “I don’t condemn you either.”

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

People all around you are watching you to see whether or not you really live what you say. To change people’s perception of Christians, we must be that change.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:17 (NLT)

VERSES TO GO DEEPER

Matthew 18:15-17, John 3:16-21, Romans 14:13, 19, Galatians 6:1-5, 1 Peter 4:8