

## WHERE WE GOT IT WRONG

## PRECEPT

**John 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, <sup>2</sup> but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup> As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. <sup>4</sup> “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” ... <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” <sup>11</sup> “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

## PROMISE

Behind every label is a real person with a real story. A person who wants to know if they are loved? welcome? And we need to remember that these are exactly the kinds of people Jesus drew near to—not away from. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone. It is not our sexuality, our morality, or our good works. What condemns us is our sin and our pride—the belief that we do not need a Saviour. We are all in the same boat; while our specific experiences may differ, we all wrestle with desires, temptations, and struggles that we must surrender to Jesus. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Without Jesus, we are all lost, and only Jesus can save us.

**LEAD WITH RELATIONSHIP.** 1 Thessalonians 2:8 says, “We were glad to share not only God’s good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much.” Jesus built relationships with people long before they understood everything. Before sharing your convictions, build genuine relationships.

**OPEN YOUR EARS.** James 1:19 notes, “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” Seek to understand before trying to be understood. Sometimes the most healing words are not a sermon, but a sincere question and a listening ear. People are often more open to the truth after they feel heard.

**VALUE WITHOUT COMPROMISE.** Genesis 1:27 says, “God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” Treat every person with respect, honour, and compassion. We can affirm a person’s worth without affirming every belief or behaviour.

**EXTEND TRUTH WITH GRACE.** Ephesians 4:15 notes, “Love should always make us tell the truth. Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ.” When the time is right, share God’s truth with humility and compassion. Trust the Holy Spirit to do the transforming. We lead with relationship, open our ears, value every person, and extend truth with grace. Our goal is not to win arguments, but to help people encounter Jesus.

Let us be known not for what we are against, but for who we are for. We are for God, for people, for grace and truth, for transformation, we are for Jesus. May we be a church that is full of both grace and truth. A place where all people are genuinely loved, where God’s truth is faithfully proclaimed, and where Jesus is clearly seen.

## PRACTICE

1. **Love.** Think of a time someone successfully spoke a “truth in love” to you. What made their delivery effective, and how did it impact your relationship with them?
2. **Truth & grace.** Can you think of a time when you had to share a difficult truth with someone? How did you ensure your approach was rooted in grace rather than judgment? And how can we pray for you regarding this?

## PRAYER

**I. Mothers**

- Thank God for the gift of their lives and love.

**II. Healing**

- We lift up those in need of God’s healing touch. May they have comfort and restoration.

**III. Direction**

- Seek the Lord for guidance, and divine wisdom as we set our goals this year.

**IV. Gifts**

- Pray that we may be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit to serve God.

**V. Growth**

- May He guide us as we seek to grow in faith and character, and to learn from Christ.

**VI. Faith**

- In moments of doubts, let us be reminded of His promises.

**VII. Worship Service**

- Pray that we will all be proactive in inviting our friends and families.