



Guilt to Grace

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Today's Core Truth: God's grace is not meant to just excuse us but to empower us.

John 8:3–11 (NIV)

Guilt to Grace:

⇒ **Guilt condemns but grace _____.**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
Romans 8:1 (NIV)

Those people are on a dark spiral downward. But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself. It takes one to know one. Judgmental criticism of others is a well-known way of escaping detection in your own crimes and misdemeanors. But God isn't so easily diverted. He sees right through all such smoke screens and holds you to what you've done. You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change. Romans 2:1–4 (The Message)

⇒ **Guilt accuses but grace _____.**

...There is no difference...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22b–24 (NIV)

⇒ **Guilt incriminates but grace _____.**

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:10-11 (NIV)

ANSWER KEY: extends, forgives, empowers



Study & Discussion for your next Small Group

Theme: A Stone's Throw Away

Share Together: When were you falsely accused or tricked into doing something wrong? What was the outcome? How did it affect you?

Reflect together: What impacted you the most

from Sunday's message?

Read Together: John 8:3-11

Discuss Together

- How were the religious leaders trying to trap Jesus? What was their motive?
- What do you think Jesus was writing on the ground?
- What did Jesus mean after he forgave the women, "Go and leave your life of sin"?
- What do you think her response was after Jesus forgave her?
- If you were the woman, how would you have felt towards these religious leaders and Jesus?
- How would you have felt after Jesus forgave and empowered you to go and live a new life?
- How can you relate to this in your own faith journey with Jesus?

Pray Together: Take time to share how God has answered prayer and other prayer requests that you have today.