

The Big Lie

In our supposedly enlightened and progressive society, we're taught that truth and morality are relative, that all lifestyle choices are equally legitimate, and that failing to actively support this philosophy (let alone speaking out against it) is an act of hate. But here's the truth. Disagreeing with someone is NOT synonymous with hating them. By the same token, loving a person does not mean you must automatically condone their every behavior. Anybody who's been a parent should know that it is not only possible but essential to differentiate between the person and their actions. You love your child unconditionally but you correct his/her wrong, sometimes dangerous, behavior, knowing that learning right conduct will ultimately benefit your child (as well as everybody else around them).

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the midst, they said to [Jesus], "Teacher... the Law of Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" ...He straightened up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." ...When they heard it, they began to go out one by one... Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you? ...Neither do I condemn you..." (John 8:3-11)

Stopping here, this passage can and has been used to teach that Jesus accepts everybody just as they are, that although bigoted people may judge the behavior or lifestyle of others Jesus does not. That would be more comfortable, because it wouldn't offend anyone or require us to change. But the truth is that although Jesus unconditionally LOVED the woman before Him, He did not condone her behavior. Sometimes conveniently omitted, His final words to her were, *"Go now and leave your life of sin."*

Jesus didn't say this to be cruel, judgmental, or to spoil her fun. He certainly didn't hate her. He corrected her out of love, like a good parent would, knowing that she would greatly benefit by bringing her life into alignment with God's design. Since that is what we were created for, that is when we will be most content and fulfilled – living according to God's plan, in fellowship with Him and in obedience to the laws He gave to guide us. God is god, so it's *His* definition of right and wrong that counts, and His definitions haven't changed. The world and Satan, *the father of lies* (John 8:4), would have us believe otherwise.

So where does that leave us? As always, we are to follow Jesus' perfect example, loving people unconditionally while standing on God's uncompromised truth.

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