

# Life Application Notes

A Great Church Deals With Problems (1 Corinthians #4) - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Speaker:** Matthew Gwyn

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20

## Introduction

This Sunday Matt looked at the fourth topic of our current series in the first letter to the Corinthians - how a healthy local church deals with problems, God's way.

**Ask whether anyone can think of a simple problem that they have encountered in their own life, which they have dealt - or are dealing - with in a healthy, Godly way.**

*(Matt gave the example of being careful what he touched and ate when the rest of his family were sick with a diarrhoea & vomiting bug during the Easter holiday.)*

## #ThingsJesusNeverSaid

**Read John 8:1-11 together.**

Jesus never told anyone who he interacted with to continue living a sinful life, but rather counselled them to 'go and sin no more.'

**Ask whether anyone knows - or can guess - what Jesus was writing in the dust when the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees presented him with the woman caught in adultery, and demanded judgement from him.**

*(Studies suggest that on the first occasion, Jesus was following Hebrew tradition which dictated that when someone was caught in adultery, both the Law that had been broken and the names of the accused were to be written in the dust of the Temple floor - based on Jeremiah 17:13.*

*On the second occasion, it has been theorised that Jesus wrote the names of each 'stone-holding accuser' from the oldest to the youngest, as that is the order in which to total silence - possibly stunned at His supernatural knowledge - they dropped their ammunition, and walked away.)*

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*"Stop looking for the perfect church. It does not exist.  
Even if it did exist, the moment we joined it, it would no longer be perfect!"*  
- Nicky Gumbel [HTB, Alpha International]

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Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all fallen short of the glory of God - *or missed the gold at the centre of the target* - but are also all justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came because of Jesus' sacrifice, and being transformed (2 Corinthians 3:18) into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Ask a few people to share their personal experience of this justification, redemption, and transformation.**  
*(This can be something very simple. You may need to start the ball rolling by sharing first yourself.)*

## Being The Light

Matt said that 'we are called not just to go from being in the Kingdom of Darkness to being in the Kingdom of Light, but also to go from being in the Kingdom of Light to being the Light of the Kingdom.'

**Ask if anyone has any ideas about how we 'be the Light of the Kingdom' (Matthew 5:14-16).**

*(E.g.: Great **Command**, Great **Commission**, Great **Grace** - the ability to do that which we cannot do ourselves.)*

## Response

**Ask a few people to read 2 Corinthians 5:17 in a number of different Bible translations.**

Take some time to pray that we - as Life Church - would be filled with grace **and** truth; that we would guard our hearts (Proverbs 4:23), and be intentional about **anything** in our own lives which could cause us to miss the mark; that we would hold each other accountable, sincerely loving one another deeply from a place of purification through obedience to God (1 Peter 1:22).