



Series: Special Topic

Passage: John 8:1-12

Title: Torn In Two- Unity in a Polarized World

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper 4/12/2026

Discussion Starter – How do you respond to conflict, (avoidance, challenge to win, uncomfortable appeasement)? What are God’s goals for the people with whom we interact? How can you maintain a loving and godly response to conflict while presenting a case for repentance and restoration? What can you learn from Jesus’ example in His confrontations?

Read John 8:1-6

1. What is the scene at the beginning of this chapter? How does Jesus react to their abrupt intrusion? How many inconsistencies does Jesus leave unquestioned?
 - a. What is the benefit of slowing the pace of the discussion? What tools can we use to slow down the assumed urgency when faced with a conflict that seems to demand an answer?
2. By reflecting on their actions before reacting to their challenge, Jesus was able to determine their motivation. What was it and how did that understanding affect his response to their question?
 - b. What can we learn by listening with our eyes, ears, and heart that can support a wise and godly response? (James 1:19-20)
 - c. Why is it difficult to listen for understanding in a tense and polarizing situation? How do clarifying questions provide a starting point for unity on both sides of a conversation?

Read John 8:7-9

3. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees in verse 7? How does His response more completely honor the law? (see Deuteronomy 17:7)
 - d. Whose needs are being addressed by Jesus in His response?
4. How does Jesus let God’s word do the heavy lifting in this confrontation? How effective is it?
 - e. Does quoting biblical proof texts to support your point serve to express God’s heart for people? How can we win the point and lose the heart?

Read John 8:10-12

8. How does Jesus' response cast vision for both the pharisee’s and the woman’s lives, (notice both leave Jesus with a challenge)? How can we inspire Biblical vision in our interactions?
9. What does 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 teach us about the value of winning an argument? What values must underly our gifts, knowledge, faith, and good deeds, lest they be of no benefit for God’s purposes and His kingdom?
10. What relationships in your life needs these skills exemplified by Jesus in this passage? What are some practical ways you can implement listening to understand, opening closed ears, or inspiring with Biblical truth and vision this week?