

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus and people, we hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here.

- The Element Team

PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

PSALM 25:11
JOHN 7:53-8:4
ROMANS 15:7
JOHN 8:5-9

MATTHEW 11:29
MATTHEW 26:53
ROMANS 8:1

UPCOMING EVENTS:

BAPTISMS

Moved to June 4th at 1pm

Lunch: Taco Salad Bar

Last names bring:

A-L: Desserts M-Z: Taco/Salad Toppings

Sign up TODAY if you'd like to be baptized,
or would like more information.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BBQ

- Regular Men's Breakfast this Saturday, May 13th at 8am

- BBQ & Arcade Game Fun at the Keinert's Saturday June 10

RSVP required at moe@ourelement.org.

YOUTH DOUBLE DOG DARE-A-THON

May 20th

Middle & High School event.

learn more at:

youth@ourelement.org

GO BAGS

The month of May

Help us with our Go-Bags
collection to help kids who are
taken out of their home and
placed into foster care.

THREE: JESUS WRITES

- JOHN 7:53-8:11 -

THREE: JESUS WRITES

In our What in the World Part II series we are answering questions you asked last year about things in the Bible that make you wonder, “What in the world does that mean?” Today’s question is this, **“John Chapter 8, which discusses Jesus writing in the sand, I thought to myself, “What in the world” did He do that for?”**

The truth is that we do not have anything Jesus actually wrote Himself. If you look through all of the Gospel accounts you will only see Him write this once (in John 8), and He wrote in the sand on the ground (which is a very temporary medium). The question that was asked was “Why” not “What,” which is good because we have no way of knowing the “What,” but we can speculate as to the “Why.” Our speculation should not be taken as knowing the mind of God; it is based upon Jesus’ character and His interactions with people.

Read John 7:53-8:4.

What stands out to you in this section of the passage?

How do you view those who are different from you?

What does it mean to you to accept one another?

In Romans 15:7 we are told to *“accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”* When we read the word “accept” we think it means we have to “accept” what everyone says and does, but that is not the case. The word itself means to recognize that it is a very good thing that someone is alive, it means you want the best for someone’s soul no matter what they have done; it doesn’t mean you agree or condone what they have done.

Who do you struggle to accept? Why?

Using the biblical definition of acceptance (as defined above) shows us that the Pharisees missed the call of God to accept one another. Originally, when the Pharisees first went into “ministry,” they did so because they

loved God and wanted to know Him better, they didn’t do it from a place of hate and malice. But their pride in their learning and lifestyle made them have contempt for those who were weaker than them. People who struggle with pride and self-righteousness usually don’t have a clue that they are walking through life with stone in hand ready to throw at others. These stones could be anything from judgmental thoughts, impatient words, or resentment over someone’s lifestyle.

What does it mean to be humble?

True humbleness means you pair gentleness and bravery in your personality. If you are gentle and not brave or brave and not gentle, you are not humble. True humbleness does not look down on people.

Read John 8:5-9.

How can you treat those you deem, “below you” in some area with continued humbleness?

Have you ever been caught in sin? If so, how did you feel?

The woman in the story was caught red handed while having an affair; she felt shame, despair, and separation. It is not uncommon when sin is exposed to feel the weight of your sin.

What do you make of Jesus’ statement “Neither do I condemn you; go and from now on sin no more?”

The gospel message is that God does not condemn us, but that Jesus will be condemned for us. You will not have a stone of God’s wrath, because Jesus will be crushed under the mountain of ALL the wrath and justice of God on ALL human sin. Romans 8:1 states there is therefore now *“no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* Christianity teaches that we ARE GUILTY but not CONDEMNED.

This is important—Jesus does not say—*“Go and sin no more and then I won’t condemn you.”* What you see is that Jesus first gives grace and acceptance before we can overcome our sin.

What in your life do you think is more important than Jesus?