

## CouplesInBloom.com – Handling Public Sin

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Pontius Pilate asked Jesus Christ, “*What is truth?*” ⇨ John 18:38, but did not wait for Jesus’ answer. Truth sets people free from evil every day ⇨ John 8:32 but only if people choose it. ***Not everything true is truth***: sin truly happens, yet sin has no truth. True things are temporary; truth is permanent, eternal, and ministers life. This is not a play on words; it is Bible and it has a timely message for us Christians in 2016. Read these four contexts:

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**1. True**: Luke 19:1-9 ⇨ Zacchaeus the chief tax collector was rich, and hated, for falsely taxing people. He was short, climbed a tree, and was trying to see Jesus over a crowd.

**Truth**: Jesus did not publicly mention Zacchaeus’ sin, but did announce he was having lunch with Zacchaeus. The people were shocked. Zacchaeus publicly apologized, said he would give half of his riches to the poor, and pay back four-fold those he falsely taxed.

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**2. True**: Luke 19:45-46; John 2:14-16 ⇨ People were selling animals in the temple for sacrifice or whatever... and over-charging people for inferior animals in the process.

**Truth**: Jesus made a whip, flipped their tables, and chased them out, explaining that the temple was for worshipping God and not for selling things or for thieves to hide in.

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**3. True**: John 1:45-51 ⇨ Philip told Nathanael they found the Messiah: Jesus from Nazareth. Nathanael mocked, asking if anything good could ever come from such a town.

**Truth**: Jesus saw Nathanael and publicly said of him, “Look, a true Israelite in whom there is no mockery.”

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**4. True**: John 8:13-59 ⇨ The Pharisees were Old Testament experts, but did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

**Truth**: Jesus explained to them that they had no **truth** in them because they were children of the devil, who is a liar and a murderer, and that they did the devil’s work.

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Jesus’ life consistently demonstrated to us two correct methods of **handling public sin**:

☑ For those **outside the church**: Jesus **never broadcast their sin**, but instead spoke to the gift of God in them... observable by faith, not by sight. This resulted in each person turning away from their sin and to following Jesus... as seen in number **1** and **3** above.

☑ For those **inside the church** who knew yet nevertheless misused the truth: Jesus did **openly announce their sin**, and explained the details of it to them so that they, too, could understand, turn away from their sin, and follow Him... as seen in number **2** and **4** above.

Each Christian is accountable to examine them self and ask the Holy Spirit if they **misuse truth** as is popular today by **public sinner bashing** and **church sinner silence**. Jesus **did not-** and Biblical Christians **do not-** commit either, because both are trash. Instead of speaking about **trash we see with our eyes that is true**, we speak about **treasure we see by faith that is truth**. **THIS** is the Gospel; the good news of Jesus Christ.

Humbly repent of condemning people that Jesus died to save from condemnation (!) if you are one of many ‘Christians’ who tell the lost how bad their sin is. Realize that **demons speak true trash**; Jesus died so we can speak **truth / treasures / life / the Gospel / the good news** into people. **Stop quoting demons!** Instead, **speak the truth of Jesus!** ♥