

## THE WAY: God-Control!

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and ***broad is the road that leads to destruction***, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and ***narrow the road that leads to life***, and only a few find it.”

- *Matthew 7:13-14 NIV*

“Everything is permissible for me”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me”—but I will not be ***mastered*** by anything. - *1 Corinthians 6:12 NIV*

- WHAT HAS \_\_\_\_\_ YOU?

He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak... some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also ***fashions a god and worships it***; he makes ***an idol and bows down to it***... He prays to it and says, “***Save me; you are my god***.” Their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand ***a lie?***” - *Isaiah 44:14-20 NIV*

- WE'RE SEEKING TO \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT ONLY GOD CAN \_\_\_\_\_!

### THE WIDE PATH TOWARD DESTRUCTION

#### 1. Refuse To \_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_!

Only ***acknowledge your guilt***. ***Admit*** that you rebelled against the LORD your God and committed adultery against him by worshiping idols. - *Jeremiah 3:13 NLT*

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_ Cravings!

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. ***They are in conflict with each other***, so that you do not do what you want. - *Galatians 5:16-18 NIV*

#### 3. Continue To Make \_\_\_\_\_ For Your \_\_\_\_\_!

“But they all alike began to make ***excuses***. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’” - *Luke 14:18-20 NIV*

#### 4. Keep Your \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_!

“He who ***conceals his sins*** does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

- *Proverbs 28:13 NIV*

#### 5. Rely On Your Own \_\_\_\_\_, Not God’s \_\_\_\_\_!

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine ***power to demolish strongholds***. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. - *2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV*

### THE NARROW WAY

- Do Whatever It Takes To \_\_\_\_\_!

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. ***Stand firm***, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. - *Galatians 5:1 NIV*

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Reflect on 1 Corinthians 6:12. Are you spending too much time, energy, or resources on anything that's not beneficial?
- What has mastered you?
- Have you ever been set free from something by the power of God? How did you tap into God's power?
- For many addictions, we're seeking what only God can provide in something besides God Himself. What do you think your addiction is providing that God wants to provide?
- What is your next step to overcome a false master? Be specific. Pray for each other?
- Sin grows best in the dark. Who will you tell about your battle to be free?
- What did God speak to you during this message? Discuss it.
- How can you begin to pray this week for any problem in your life?