



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Sin Less: Week 6 (August 20, 2023)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: GATHER with your family or group. Step 2: REVIEW and DISCUSS the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: PRAY for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

### DISCUSSION STARTER

Have you ever gone to court for a speeding ticket? If so, what were you hoping the judge would do in your case? Why?

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Galatians 5:19-21.** Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub (biblehub.com)* or *Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)*, study through this scripture. Once you have thoroughly studied this passage, answer the following questions: The Bible teaches that when a person becomes a Christian, they will no longer live according to works of the flesh. Paul warns his readers that those who live according to the flesh, will not inherit the kingdom of God. And yet, at the same time, the Bible does not teach that Christians can and must live in sinless perfection if they are to be saved. How would you counsel a believer who still struggles with sin? The Apostle Paul said that those who do the works of the flesh have no part in God's kingdom. Those who do the works of the flesh are those whose lives are controlled and characterized by the flesh and the sin it produces. This does not mean that true Christians are sinless and perfect. Based on the above, when should a self-proclaimed Christian call into question their salvation based upon the way they live? In 2 Corinthians 13:5, the Apostle Paul exhorted his readers to "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith". What does it mean to examine oneself to see if you are in the faith? How can we change the world or even our community when we won't change ourselves? We can't change the world until the world sees a change in us.

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

**Read Luke 5:27-32.** Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub (biblehub.com)* or *Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)*, study through this scripture. Once you have thoroughly studied this passage, answer the following questions: How has Jesus accepted you? How has He received and valued you? What are some practical ways you can extend that same spirit of acceptance and belonging to the people around you? Who's one person you can begin with this week? Why do you think Levi invited these people to join him at the banquet? Why would he have wanted them to experience Jesus? What are some opportunities you can create in order to invite people to "come and see" who Jesus is? How does Jesus describe His mission in Luke 5:31-32? In what ways have Christians today embraced this mission? In what ways have we struggled with it? How can we both individually and corporately do a better job at joining Jesus in His work?

### DIGGING DEEPER 3

**Read Malachi 2:17.** Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub (biblehub.com)* or *Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)*, study through this scripture. Once you have thoroughly studied this passage, answer the following questions: What has God grown weary about? What about their circumstances might have led Israel to complain in this manner? By the people's complaints, what are they implying about God? What attributes of God had they forgotten? What does the people of Malachi's day desire God to do? Is this a wrong desire? Why or why not? Are there ways and times when we "project" our attitudes and viewpoint upon God? How can we avoid this?

### DOING THE WORD

Take time to thank God for His justice to you through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask God to help you remember that there is a day of justice coming. Jesus is coming, and when He comes back, He's coming as a refiner's fire (Malachi 3:2). Those that think God should be tougher on sinners, should be careful what they wish for. Ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with others while there is still time to experience His mercy and grace.