



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Sin Less: Week 7 (August 27, 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

What does it mean to be Holy? What is Holiness dependent on? How Holy do you want to be?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Isaiah 54:17. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. Why can we talk so openly about so many things, but so many of us struggle to talk openly about our sin? Why does Satan want to keep us from talking about our sin? The church is the body of Christ – people. What is the role of the church? Why are we here? Is it to make you comfortable or to make you Holy? What does comfort produce? Satan wants to lull you into a place of complacency, because he wants to convince you that your sinful behavior is normal. How does sin become our place of comfort, a place of safety, and identity? How do we overcome sin? What did Christ go through in order to conquer sin? Why would we think as Christ followers that our journey of conquering sin would be any different. How is sin a weapon strategically formed against you? How does Satan know your weaknesses? How do we give sin power in our lives?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Mark 14:37-38; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 1 Peter 5:8; James 1:14. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through these scriptures. Why did Jesus refer to Peter's old name Simon? How many times do we return to acting like the old self? How many times have you returned back to the same sinful behavior, to the same person you were before? What does "Keep Watch" mean? Why can't we ever let our guard down? Did you catch what just happened? Jesus warned Peter to be watchful, and now Peter has turned around and learned from his mistake and he is now telling the Pastors of the church that same thing—to be watchful and to be focused. Have you learned from your past mistakes? Explain. At what time of day were they in the garden praying? Why is nighttime more dangerous than daytime? Read **1 John 1:5-7**. How do we overcome sin's power? What hinders our prayer life? Do you have a healthy prayer life? Jesus says, "Be watchful and pray" why? What does Jesus mean that "the Spirit is willing"? What does the word "willing" mean?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Matthew 26:33-35; Genesis 4:6-7. How do we get into a position where what we want spiritually takes importance over what we want physically, so we don't fall into sinful behavior? Cain and Able had just offered their sacrifices to God, and God accepted Abel's and rejected Cain's. God comes to Cain in his struggle and sinful behavior just like he does each one of us. Does God ever expect us to do something that He hadn't already given us instruction on how to do it? How does this encourage you? Did God give Cain an opportunity to repent of his sin? How? Why is anger a gateway sin? The Lord gave Cain the chance to repent and get right with Him, God gives you and I this same incredible offer of forgiveness and cleansing to us. But if we ignore Him, what is waiting for us?

DOING THE WORD

You can't fully represent Jesus unless you desire Holiness, and you can't be Holy unless you are willing to surrender sin—all of it. Examine yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin that is hindering you from fully representing Christ. Now, surrender it all... confess it and repent of it. Read **James 4:7**. How do you "submit yourself" to God? Submission begins with confession. To be able to resist to devil you must first live a life submitted to God. Be honest, how submitted to God are you? Close by spending time in prayer, confession, and then praise our good, good Father. Read and meditate on **Galatians 5:16**.