



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Sin Less: Week 2 (July 23, 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 is the true measure of success in your life as a Christ Follower? Is success church attendance or you living a holier life? Do you love Christ enough to deny your passion and desires to live set apart lives?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read James 1:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:22. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com), study James 1:14-15. Pastor Sam said that every sin we have begins with an inward passion and desire for that sin. That passion and desire is what influences us and persuades us to commit that sin. Why do you sin? What is the process that leads you down that path? Who causes you to sin? No one causes you to sin. Not Satan. Not demons. Not God. It all comes down to your free choice – you choose to sin. But how? How does it happen? What are the three steps in sinning? At each stage of the sin process, you are free to resist. As a Christian you are no longer a slave to sin. According to 2 Timothy 2:22 Paul implies you are free to flee or run from sin and to pursue righteousness instead. How is this done? There is always a way out of sin. God has never set you up for failure. So how do we conquer daily those passions before they produce the sin in our lives? Will we ever get to the point where we are 100% successful at conquering every passion before it produces sinful action? How do we "sin less"?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read John 17:14-18. The journey of sinning less is called sanctification. Sanctification is the process of becoming Holy, morally set apart, looking more like Christ, by purifying our hearts and minds of those sinful passions and desires. Throughout the Bible, we are being called to align ourselves with God's will and cleanse ourselves from sin. The struggle is real though as it applies to living a Holier Life. How do you daily become Holier, set apart, look different? How do you find the strength to crucify the passions and desires of your sinful flesh that leads to sin? How do I transition from my old self, and permanently into the new person I am in Christ?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20. If we are to be Holy or Set Apart, to look and live different from a sinful world, what are the actions that God's word defines as sinful? What are the actions that prevent us from being Holy and looking like Christ? Does being saved mean you won't sin? Being saved doesn't mean you won't sin, but thanks be to God you have the power to conquer the desires that lead to sin. Who is that power and how do we access it? What is sexual sin? What does Paul tell the Corinthians to do when it comes to sexual sin, just resist it? Is Paul saying sexual sin is worse than other sins? What is Paul saying here in verse 19 of 1 Corinthians? Your body is the temple. The temple is where the presence of God dwelled. The Bible tells us that our bodies become the dwelling place of God's presence which is the Holy Spirit. The church isn't a temple, but our bodies are. Why do we have way more respect for a building that doesn't house God than we do our bodies that God dwells in? Why are we not as offended about desecrating this temple (our body) than we are about the church building (brick & mortar)?

DOING THE WORD

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. Our bodies belong to God, He purchased us through the blood of Christ. It would be disrespectful to take something that belonged to someone else and use it intentionally in a way the owner told us not to do. We don't have the right to pollute and abuse God's property! Discuss and pray how we can honor God with our body (our whole being). How can you pray verse 2 back to God in praise and thanksgiving? How can you use verse 2 to pray for your own requests? What's one thing you learned about God or the gospel in this text? How can you apply it or walk in it this week (be specific)? Let's lead a movement!