



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Sin Less: Week 3 (July 30, 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

We are all in the process of growing to become more Christ-like (sanctification). Describe some changes God has made in your life since you have been saved/born again.

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* ([biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com)) or *Blue Letter Bible* ([blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)), study through these scriptures. Why do you think there is so much confusion in our culture over what is and is not sin? How do we navigate this confusion as believers? Reread verses 19-21 in Galatians chapter 5. In looking at the vices described, what do you see most prevalent in your own life? How would you explain to a person wondering how they could tell if their life was controlled by the Holy Spirit, or by the lusts of the flesh? How can asking yourself, "Is this in the Spirit?" help you in the way you walk your Christian walk? How do we justify our sins?

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

**Read Romans 1:28-32.** How did the Roman Empire influence sexual immorality? Did this influence affect the church? How? Paul wrote to the churches of Rome, Galatia, Corinth, Thessalonica, Ephesus, and Colossae to address what issue? Discuss the significance of how God hands sinful men over to their lusts, passions, and minds. We must be sobered by this divine abandonment. We must have the realization of what is going on in our world today. We must have a Christian worldview and see what is transpiring around us with the mind of Christ. We cannot do everything, but what we can do we must do. And what we must do, let us purpose to do. We must do all that we can to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through our church, small groups, and personal witnessing, we must work through every means possible.

### DIGGING DEEPER 3

**Read Ephesians 5:1-3; Colossians 3:5.** Why do you think Paul goes from mentioning the cross to addressing sexual sin? Why do you think the topics presented in these passages by Paul are done so with such passion? Is there something unique about these things and how they impact lives and the work of Jesus? How might the war with our enemy (Satan) come in to play in these issues? How have you seen these issues damage people and relationships? What do you think this does to the heart of God? What impact should this have on us as followers of Jesus? Why do you think Paul uses such forceful language here (Col 3:5): "put to death", "rid yourselves"? Are there any surprises in the two lists of things he calls us to purge from our lives? What practical difference to your life (if any) will these passages and Scriptures make? What will it mean for you to be more consciously "set your hearts on things above" and more deliberately "put to death" and "rid yourselves" of certain things?

### DOING THE WORD

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6.** For the Christian who finds themselves continuously struggling with sin, how does the truth of the Gospel set them free from their sin? Why is it important to preach the gospel to yourself every day? Why is it important to continuously press in closer to Jesus Christ? Don't simply try to change your behavior or your feelings. Ask yourself, "Why am I gratifying my sinful nature this way? How am I looking to get myself security, satisfaction, or significance rather than allowing Jesus to give it to me?" Remember that through faith you are a child of God (Gal. 3:26). How will that take away your motivation to sin? Read *James 5:16* and *Psalms 32:3-5*. Why do we confess our sins to one another? Because a continual relationship of confession and forgiveness among brothers and sisters in Christ cultivates honesty and purity and reflects the unity the church is meant to embody: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Be free! As the Holy Spirit leads confess your sins to one another.