



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Sin Less: Week 8 (September 17, 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

Discuss the following: Salvation is not our destination, but our pathway to accomplish our purpose. What is salvation? What is sin? What is the effect of sin upon us? How does sin separate us from God? Jesus came to conquer sin, so God can dwell in us, and accomplish his purpose through us. What is God's purpose for us?

### DIGGING DEEPER 1

**Read Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5.** 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 this scripture before responding to the following questions. Even though Jesus has conquered our sin eternally, we still deal with sin daily. God calls us to live Holy lives. What does it mean to live a Holy life? How do we daily pursue Holiness? 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? We must evaluate our lives daily and identify unforgiven sin(s). Then we must confess and surrender that sin and ask God for forgiveness. Why is that a necessity? How can we change the world or even our community when Christ followers won't change ourselves? We can't change the world until the world sees a change in us. As uncomfortable as Galatians 5:19-21 may make us feel, why is it absolutely necessary for us to hear, think about, and learn from passages such as this? 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?

### DIGGING DEEPER 2

**Read Luke 5:27-32; Romans 15:7-12.** 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 this scripture. How did Jesus bring down the barriers between Jews and Gentiles? How have you seen Jesus bringing down barriers between people in our day? 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; 2 Peter 3:9.** 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 this scripture. Malachi 2:17 opens with the fourth dispute between God and His people. 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?

### DOING THE WORD

Remember, that through faith you are a child of God (Gal. 3:26). How will that take away your motivation to sin? We must be willing to allow the Holy Spirit the freedom to highlight our sinfulness, and then the faith to surrender it to God. Do you have faith in Christ enough to surrender your sinfulness today? Do you trust him enough to believe he can forgive, that he can heal, that he can restore? Close this time with God by acknowledging your sin to him. Finally, be willing to let it go and God can and will do the rest. Let go and let God. He loves you and desires you to be holy as He is holy. It's time.