



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: Sin-Less Series: Week 1 (July 16, 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

Just as Pastor Sam stated that he had to challenge his traditional mindset on what success as a church looks like, we, as individuals, must challenge the traditional mindset of what success as a believer looks like. As you go through this discussion guide, be open to evaluating your own personal relationship with the Lord and where you may need to change. What does a holier life look like for you?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Galatians 5:24. Let's openly ask ourselves a few questions. First, do you belong to Christ? Without this first step, everything moving forward is irrelevant. Romans 10:9-10 shares that we **MUST** confess and believe. Have you taken that step? Second, what are the sins that have defined you? We all have them. Each person has a sin that lingers in their lives. What is that sin? Have you identified it and have you "forcefully ended it"? As Christ followers we will never be sinless, but the goal is to Sin Less. Sinning Less leads to a holier life.

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read 1 Peter 1:14-16; Acts 2:38. You may be asking how in the world do I sin less. It is so difficult! Honestly, it is difficult, but there is a plan, a process to help you out. Just as Paul shared in Romans 12:2 "do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind", Peter provides in 1 Peter and Acts a process to live holier lives. Ask yourself: What area has God through the Holy Spirit identified as disobedient in your life? Asked another way, what is an area of your life that just isn't holy? It could be your anger, the disrespectful words you use, your personal intimate relationships, the use of your money, how you treat your spouse, the words you speak about others, the opinions you have of others.....the list could go on and on. The question is not for anyone else's life but for you. What has God shown you that is not holy? If nothing comes to mind, then read and pray Psalms 139:23-24. "search me God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Acts 2:38, Romans 6:2, Romans 6:6-7, Romans 6:11. As we allow God to search our hearts, the next step we must do is Acts 2:38. We must repent and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. Focus on verse 20. We (you) are Christ's ambassador. We (you) are made to reconcile the world to Christ. How can we reconcile the world, if we don't reconcile the sin in our own lives? Romans 6:2 is a promise of strength. Salvation "kills" the power of sin in our lives. Verse 6-7 show us that salvation allows us to no longer be "slaves to sin" and verse 11 states that salvation allows us to be "alive in God through Christ Jesus". What does no longer being a slave to sin and alive in God mean to you? What difference would that make in your life?

DOING THE WORD

Questions to ponder this week come from Romans 12. Do you offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God? Are you no longer conforming to the pattern of this world, but be transformed to the pattern of Christ? If so, where, when and how are you being an ambassador for Christ? Where, when and how are you providing reconciliation to those you come in contact with on a daily basis? How is your disciple making process going? Who is it and how will you speak into their lives this week?

This week I challenge you to pray Psalms 139:23-24. "search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Identify the offensive ways and immediately repent of them.

Search me, test me, lead me. What a powerful challenge! Be ready for God to move in your life. It may be uncomfortable, but the bible tells us that our faith will be uncomfortable. God bless you all this week! Sin Less!