



# Outward Group Discussion Guide

October 25, 2026

## SUMMARY

Drawing from 2 Timothy 3:1-9, this sermon confronts the reality of counterfeit faith in the last days -- a period that began with Christ's incarnation and continues today. The pastor challenges listeners to examine whether their outward profession of faith matches the inward reality of their lives. Using Paul's list of 18 characteristics of ungodliness, the sermon exposes the root problem of self-love and the lie first believed in the Garden of Eden -- that self can sit on the throne of one's life. The sermon contrasts the world's pattern of loving self, loving things, and using people against the biblical call to love God, love people, and use things for God's glory. The message concludes with a call to embrace the knowledge of the truth found in the gospel, which alone has the power to transform counterfeit faith into genuine, fruit-bearing discipleship.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon describes people who have 'the appearance of godliness but denying its power' -- in what practical ways might someone unknowingly fall into this pattern in their own spiritual life?

2. The pastor frames becoming a Christian as 'a declaration of war' against the powers of this world -- how does understanding your faith as an act of spiritual warfare change the way you approach daily life and decisions?
3. The sermon contrasts two ways of relating to God, people, and things: 'love self, love things, and use people' versus 'love God, love people, and use things for his glory' -- where do you most struggle to live out the second pattern, and why?
4. Paul warns in 2 Timothy 3 about people who are 'always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth' -- what is the difference between accumulating religious knowledge and genuinely arriving at transformative truth?
5. The pastor connects the very first lie told in Genesis 3 to the self-focused values described in 2 Timothy 3 -- how do you see that original lie manifesting in the cultural messages you encounter most frequently today?
6. The sermon describes God's response to persistent sin as allowing people to become 'more and more sinful' -- how does understanding this as a form of divine judgment change the way you think about ongoing patterns of sin in your own life?
7. The pastor distinguishes between people who are 'in the struggle and the fight' with sin versus those who

have simply walked away without a second thought -- what does it look like practically to remain actively engaged in the fight rather than drifting into complacency?

8. The story of Jannes and Jambres illustrates people who witnessed God's power firsthand and still opposed the truth -- what does this suggest about the limits of signs, wonders, and religious experiences as a foundation for genuine faith?
9. The sermon emphasizes that unappeasability and an unwillingness to reconcile are signs of the times -- how do you personally navigate the tension between maintaining healthy boundaries and refusing to become someone who will not forgive?
10. Romans 5:20 is cited to remind listeners that where sin increased, grace abounded all the more -- how does a deeper understanding of God's grace both humble us regarding our sin and empower us toward genuine transformation rather than complacency?