

NOTES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE GOD WHO PURSUES

KEY POINTS

- The only control that the Bible says we have is **SELF-CONTROL**.
- Trying to fix people leads to frustration. Trying to demand love leads to disappointment. Trying to control the outcome leads to exhaustion.
- In order to have healthy "horizontal" relationships with others, we must first have a healthy "vertical" relationship with God.
 - Our relationship with God powers our relationship with others.
- Jesus as Savior vs. Jesus as Lord:
 - Jesus as **Savior**: "I trust You to forgive me and save me."
 - Jesus as **Lord**: "I trust You to lead my life."
- When we remain (abide) in Jesus, we bear His fruits: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control** (Galatians 5:22-23). Fruits:
 - Always bear the character of the tree.
 - Are never visible.
 - Are for someone else's benefit.
- **Remain, Renew, Reflect**
 - John 15:4, Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 5:22
- You are responsible for **yourself, your actions, and your response**.
- **3 "How-To's"**:
 - What's getting in the way? Surrender it.
 - Relationship requires time.
 - Don't believe the lie of culture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **According to John 15:1–7, what does it practically look like to “remain” (abide) in Jesus in your everyday life? Where do you see evidence that you’re staying connected to the Vine — and where might you be trying to produce fruit on your own?**
2. **Romans 12:1–2 talks about being transformed by the renewing of our minds. What cultural lies about control, love, or success have you believed? How might renewing your mind change the way you approach your relationships?**

3. **The sermon says the only control we truly have is self-control. Where are you currently tempted to control a person, an outcome, or a situation? What would it look like to surrender that to God instead?**
4. **Jesus as Savior vs. Jesus as Lord: In what areas of your life is it easier to trust Jesus to save you than to lead you? What would shift if you fully trusted Him as Lord in that area?**
5. **Galatians 5:22-23 describes the fruit that naturally grows when we remain in Christ. Which fruit is most visible in your life right now? Which one feels underdeveloped? How might investing in your “vertical” relationship with God impact your “horizontal” relationships this week?**