

Small Group Guide for August 8, 2026
"No Longer Under the Law? Part 3: The Heresies Within"

Discussion Questions

1. Before this message, had you ever heard the name Marcion or term Gnosticism? If so, where did you encounter them? If not, what was your reaction to learning about them today?
2. The message describes the Belt of Truth, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit as areas where Believers are particularly vulnerable. Do you agree with that assessment? Why or why not?
3. The idea that the God of the Old Testament is harsh and the God of the New Testament is loving is described as one of the most common expressions of Marcion's heresy. Have you encountered this idea -- in a church, in a conversation, or even in your own thinking? How did you respond to it?
4. Hebrews 13:8 describes Yeshua as the same yesterday, today, and forever. How does that statement challenge the idea of two different gods across the two testaments?
5. The message notes that Marcion viewed Paul as the only reliable interpreter of what Yeshua taught, effectively sidelining the other apostles and the Holy Spirit. What dangers arise when a single teacher or personality becomes the final word on Scripture for a group of Believers?

6. Andy Stanley's comment that the Old Testament should be "unhitched" from the New Testament is mentioned as a modern example of Marcion's influence. How would you respond to someone who made that argument to you?

7. The message describes Gnosticism as centering on special knowledge, the belief that the material world is evil, and the desire to escape this world rather than engage it. Where do you see these ideas showing up in popular Christian culture today?

8. The phrase "I can't wait to die and go to heaven and get out of this evil corrupt world" is offered as an example of Gnostic thinking embedded in common Christian speech. How does that statement conflict with what Scripture says about creation, the Kingdom of God, and the calling of Believers?

9. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's concept of "cheap grace" is referenced -- grace that requires nothing of the recipient. How do you distinguish between the genuine biblical teaching of salvation by grace through faith and the distortion Bonhoeffer was describing?

11. The message defines Bible fluency not as verse memorization but as knowing what the Bible says in culture and context. How would you honestly assess your own level of Bible fluency right now? What is one area where you feel confident and one area where you feel underprepared?

12. The message says that real study happens in community where ideas can be challenged and sharpened, not just individually. Do you agree? What has been your experience studying Scripture with others compared to studying alone?

13. Deuteronomy 4:6 is cited near the close of the message, describing God's teachings as the wisdom and understanding for His people, a witness to the surrounding nations. How does that framing change the way you think about learning and applying Scripture?