

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

TALK IT THROUGH

John 8:34-36 *The Voice*

Jesus replied, I tell you the truth: everyone who commits sin surrenders his freedom to sin. He is a slave to sin's power. Even a household slave does not live in the home like a member of the family, but a son belongs there forever. So, think of it this way: if the Son comes to make you free, you will really be free.

Gal 5:1 *The Message*

Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

Gal 1:6

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel"

Gal 2:4-5, 15-16

Some people who were pretending to be our brothers and sisters were brought in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations.

But we did not listen to them for a single moment, for we did not want to **confuse you into thinking that salvation can be earned** by being circumcised and by obeying Jewish laws. We know that a person

is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. **For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.** (*keeping the rules*)

“The deepest heresy of all, which corrupts believers, is salvation by works. The root of every schism and heresy from which the church has suffered, has been the effort to earn salvation rather than to receive it. The reason so much of our preaching is ineffective is that we are calling people up to work in order to please God, instead of beholding the God who has done the work for us all”

Acts 15:1-2

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently.

Mark 7:13

And so you nullify (make of no effect) the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.”

Amos 5:21

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

Acts 17:22

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way,

Acts 26:5

“I have been a member of the Pharisees, the strictest sect of our religion.”

Heb 10:11

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, **which can never take away sins**

Gal 2:11-12

But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him **to his face**, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Gal 2:13

As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was **led astray by their hypocrisy**.

Gal 2:19-21 *The Message*

What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be *God's* man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.

"Paul had no reputation and so he had nothing to fight about. He had no possessions, so he had nothing to worry about. He had no rights, so he had nothing to defend. He was already broken, so no one could break him. He was dead, so no one could kill him. He had lost everything, so no one could steal from him, he had nothing, yet he had everything because Christ, the all-in-all, was everything to him, for him, in him and through him"

Leonard Ravenhill

Col 2:6

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "Freedom"?
2. What do you think it means to be free in Christ?
3. Ps Dave's first point was "Freedom from Religion". Religion comes with rules and regulations. What are some rules you might need to get free from?
4. Ps Dave second point was "Freedom from Hypocrisy". Hypocrisy keeps seekers from coming to church, but it can also keep believers from growing. Are there some area in your areas in your life where you can tend to be hypocritical? How can we be less hypocritical?
5. Ps Dave's third point was "Freedom to live with the Reality of the Cross". How can we live every day with the reality of the Cross? The apostle Paul talks about dying to yourself and picking up you cross daily. What does that look like to you?