

**Pastor Rich Harris**  
**Ephesians Part 7—One or the Other**  
**2.28.2021**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

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. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Ephesians 4:17-18, NIV / NLT]**

**17** So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. **18** Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

**[Ephesians 4:19-20, ESV]**

**19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20** **But that is not the way you learned Christ!**

**[Ephesians 4:21-24, NLT]**

**21** Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, **22** throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and). **23** Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. **24** Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

***There is no such thing as “little sins” and “big sins;” they are all just sin. Compromise will cause you to long for slavery when you’re already close to the Promised Land. Compromise does not politely ring the doorbell and wait to be invited it.***

**[James 4:4, TPT]**

**4** You have become spiritual adulterers who are having an affair, an unholy relationship with the world. Don't you know that flirting with the world's values places you at odds with God? Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy!

**[1 Peter 1:14-19, TPT]**

**14** As God's obedient children, never again shape your lives by the desires that you followed when you didn't know better. **15** Instead, shape your lives to become like the Holy One who called you. **16** For Scripture says:

***"You are to be holy, because I am holy."***

**17** Since you call on him as your heavenly Father, the impartial Judge who judges according to each one's works, live each day with holy awe and reverence throughout your time on earth. **18** For you know that your lives were ransomed once and for all from the empty and futile way of life handed down from generation to generation. It was not a ransom payment of silver and gold, which eventually perishes, **19** but the precious blood of Christ—who like a spotless, unblemished lamb was sacrificed for us.

***Repentance is all about relationship. It is a gift to restore right relationship.***

**[Isaiah 59:1-2, NLT]**

**1** Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you,  
nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.

**2** It's your sins that have cut you off from God...

**FOR MONDAY—**

1. Reflect upon what God has exchanged in your life, old ways for new ones, old relationships for eternal ones, new perspectives from old mindsets.
2. Set aside time with the Lord and examine your life for any areas of compromise, draw fresh boundaries, and repent of any sin.

## TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some recent lines that you seen drawn to preserve culture? Where have you witnessed repair and restoration? What did it take to achieve that?
2. When have you felt like you didn't really belong in a certain crowd of people? What led to this perspective?
3. Why do some believers in Jesus live half in the old life and half in the new one? What are some reasons people cling to sin and compromise?
4. According to Ephesians 4, how do we fully put on a new life, completely removing the remnants of the old? How does the Holy Spirit empower us to do that daily?
5. Looking at repentance as a gift, how might that perspective be different from your previous church experience? How does God's kindness go hand in hand with this view?
6. What does "right relationship" with God look like? Who helps you see the full potential of what God has in-store for you? In your life right now, who can you model this for?
7. Spend time as a group to pray for one another and take a posture of repentance.