

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY DO CHRISTIANS SIN?

Mark — Week 33

ICEBREAKER: What mood are you usually in? Explain why.

OVERVIEW: The reason unbelievers sin is because they can't help it! They have sinful hearts that are inclined to sin — to do what feels good rather than to seek God and His will. And the cure is a new heart. That's exactly what Christians get at the moment of salvation — a new heart that loves God and is eager to please Him. But that brings up an important question. If we have a new heart that loves God and is eager to please Him, if we have been set free from sin and Satan, if we have the indwelling Holy Spirit giving us power, then why do Christians still sin?

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Galatians 5:15-25.
 - What does it mean to walk by the Spirit, and how is that the solution to carrying out the desires of the flesh?
 - Is walking by the Spirit the same thing as "following" the Spirit in verse 25?
 - What does it mean to crucify the flesh (verse 24)?

3. One reason that Christians sin is that we are drawn to pleasure, and some pleasures are sinful. What pleasures are you drawn to that have the potential to lead you to sin?
4. The solution to the problem above is to daily surrender to God's will (Luke 9:23). What does that mean, and how does that solve the problem?
5. When is the last time you fully surrendered to God, basically saying, "Lord, You're the boss; my life belongs to You; I'll do whatever You want me to do?"
6. Another reason that we sin is because we believe lies, and belief determines behavior. How do our wrong beliefs drive our behavior, even when we know God's will and want to do it?
7. The solution to the problem above is to have faith in God's truth, or to identify the lie and replace it with the truth. How do you know if you are believing a lie? How do you replace it with the truth?
8. Another reason we sin is that we have drifted from Christ, and we can do nothing without Him. The solution to this problem is to abide in Christ, or to maintain a constant, close connection with Jesus. What spiritual disciplines do you need to practice to abide in Christ? What do you need to do to grow in consistency with spiritual disciplines so that you can avoid drifting?

The Last Word: As Christians we don't live for pleasure; we live to please God. We don't live for what feels good; we live for Jesus. And this is a daily decision – take up your cross daily.