

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Seriousness of Sin

The Gospel of Mark - Week 44

ICEBREAKER: If you could make any improvement on how cars operate, what would it be?

OVERVIEW: Sin is any failure to obey God's commandments, either by commission or omission. What does the Bible say about sin? Danger! Run away! Repent! Warning! Avoid it at all cost! Sin is so serious that it cost the crucifixion of God's Son to pay its penalty. Yet many Christians seem casual about sin. They don't seem very concerned about it. To them, sin is no big deal. While the Bible commands us to kill sin, too many Christians seem to giggle at it, tolerate it, and even protect it. In this discussion we will talk about what we need to do to treat sin as seriously we should.

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. The sermon mentioned three reasons why many Christians are not serious about sin. The first reason is that since it is impossible to be perfect, some people don't even strive for it. How does Romans 6:12-13 & 1 Peter 1:15-16 correct this misunderstanding?
3. A second reason many Christians are not serious about sin is that as long as they are no worse than the other people in their church, they are satisfied. How does Ephesians 5:1 correct this error?

4. A third reason many Christians are not serious about sin is that since salvation cannot be lost, that means we can sin as much as we want. How does 1 John 2:3-4 correct this error?
5. Read Mark 9:42-48. The sermon mentioned three reasons to get serious about sin. The first is that "God will punish those who cause others to sin (refer to Mark 9:42)." Do you need to stop pressuring or tempting others to sin? Explain.
6. What are some common misconceptions and false ideas about hell, and how does this passage provide clarity and understanding (refer to Mark 9:43-44)?
7. In the sermon we heard the story of Aaron Ralston, the hiker who amputated his right forearm in the wilderness in order to survive. How does his commitment to survival compare to your commitment to avoiding sin? Explain.
8. Mark 9:43 teaches that we need to do whatever it takes to avoid sin. What do you need to do to make sure that you overcome and avoid sin?

The Last Word: Sin will take you farther than you ever wanted to go, cost you more than you ever wanted to pay, and keep you longer than you ever wanted to stay.