



free Week 5

Lawless

April 28, 2013

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- Growing up, were you a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? How did your reaction to rules affect your relationships with your parents and siblings?

With your Bible or YouVersion read Romans 7:15-16, 24-25, 8:3, 6:14; John 15:5 & Galatians 5:16-19, 22-25

- All Religions point to three things: you ought to ... you don't ... you're toast. Religion is all about following the rules, but Jesus had something different in mind. He calls us to follow him, not the teachings of the church – follow first and obey later.

- Did your family go to church when you were growing up? Was the experience more about following Jesus or obeying rules? How has that influenced your current view of church?
- What do you find challenging about the idea that Jesus is more interested in you following him than he is in you obeying rules?
- How have you experienced the battle between flesh and Spirit, which Paul writes about, in your own life?
- Does the fruit of your life come from abiding in Christ or your own effort? What will it mean for you to abide

in Him?

- Does living free by following Jesus seem attainable? What can fellow followers of Jesus do to help you begin to approach your relationship with God from the perspective of following Jesus instead of obeying rules?

Think it Over

The Christian life is not a life of imitation. It's a life of impartation – Jesus' life in you. At the cross, the power of sin was broken. You have been set free. "For we have died and Jesus is alive in us." Jesus wants to live his life through you as you keep in step with his Spirit in you.

Accept your new identity. Embrace this new approach by asking God to bear fruit through you as you keep in step with his Spirit in you. Refuse to interact with God on the basis of rules. That's not the kind of relationships with you that he desires.

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Thank God that you can know real freedom as you live in his grace rather than under the law of sin.
- Ask God to have the Holy Spirit alert you when you begin to slip into living by law rather than by grace.
- Spend time in conversation with your Heavenly Father about:
 - What it means for you to live in Christ Jesus;
 - Bearing fruit because you are abiding in Jesus.
 - Your life being a witness to others as you walk in the Spirit



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