

SESSION 12

MY WAY OR THE HIGH WAY

God&Me&Us

Focus Point

Walking alone leaves us vulnerable. But if we are accountable to our leaders, there is safety.

The Key Truths

Ever since Adam and Eve gave in to satan's temptation and made the choice to do things their own way - irrespective of what God had instructed them to do - human beings have naturally chosen to sin. None of us were taught how to sin. The dual focus of this session has to do with the problem of individualism; doing things our own way, as well as the need to remain in fellowship with, and accountable to, other believers in the fellowship of the local Church - helping one another in our walk with Jesus. Someone trying to walk alone can easily stumble and fall into error. But a brother who is humble and walks with others is less likely to fall, and if they do, those they walk with can lift them up.

This session makes clear the truth that we cannot serve our own interests while saying that we follow Jesus. When we follow Jesus we live to serve others. Our choice in this matter will determine whether our Christian faith will bear good fruit for God's Kingdom or not.

Scriptures to Consider

- **John 8:34 (ESV)** - *"Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."*

Jesus told the Jews who had followed Him that "everyone who practises sin is a slave to sin." Whether we like to acknowledge it or not, all of us are slaves to something.

- **Romans 6:6-14 (ESV)** - *"We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

Because our old sinful selves were crucified on the cross with Jesus, (v.6) we no longer need to be slaves to sin. Sin cannot have power over us unless we give satan that power by the choices that we make (vv.12-13). When we commit our lives to Jesus, sin is no longer our master (v.14) - we cease to be slaves of sin

Group Discussion Questions

Question 1: Surely I am not being a slave to sin if I do my own thing every now and then? Doesn't being a slave to something, or someone, mean that you are following that way all the time?

Answer: We need to remind ourselves what Jesus said about the impossibility of serving two totally opposite masters. Our allegiance cannot be to both - it's one or the other. However, if we do sin and we are willing to confess and repent, God is willing to forgive us.

Question 2: Sometimes it can feel really easy to do things God's way and sometimes it can feel really difficult. What do you think causes the difference?

Answer: Explain how this is dependent on the position of our hearts. If we are focussed on, and in love with, Jesus, then serving Him becomes easier.

Use this example to help explain. Have you ever seen a movie where a guy is so in love with his girlfriend that he is willing to do ANYTHING for her, even things that he normally hates doing? He doesn't care what anyone else thinks about him, just so long as he can please his girl! When we love God with all our hearts, living as He wants us to live becomes a joy, not a heavy burden.

Question 3: If love is not just a feeling, but also an action, how can I grow in my love for God, and show Him how much I love Him?

Answer: Jesus told the rich young ruler, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* (ESV) That means that with everything that I think, do, or feel, I can and should love God.

When we surrender to the Holy Spirit, He helps us to live lives that please God and His love flows through us. When we love each other, the Bible says that other people will recognise us as being followers of Jesus.

