

The Battle for You

Insights on Romans 6:1-14

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, November 12, 2017

The Problem:

(Romans 6:1)

If God is so gracious...

God's Provision:

(Romans 6:2-11, Galatians 2:19-20, Hebrews 7:27)

1. We died _____

2. Christ's death _____

3. Christ's resurrection _____

How do we battle sin?

(Romans 6:12-14, Luke 4:1-13, Colossians 3:5-10)

1. Count on...

2. Don't let...

3. Offer yourself...

Simply Put:

It is a tragedy to take our freedom...

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to "Week 10" of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God's Word with others. We pray this has been a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you've deepened friendships and made new friends along the way! This is our last week of our 10 week small group session. We will begin another round of small groups after the holiday season.

Looking Back:

Each week we'll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. This past quarter we've heard and discussed some incredible things in our Romans series. Take a moment to think back on what you've learned, marked in your Bible or written in your notes about the themes we've covered and share any highlights that stood out to you in our study of Romans so far.

2. As we enter into this holiday season, what are some of your best memories of holidays from when you were a kid. Share a story or two with the group!

Each week in "looking back," we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and have an opportunity to share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God's Word.

Looking Up:

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or needs some clarification?

1. This week we heard about the problem...Do we keep sinning so God's grace may increase? The answer is inevitably "no" because we have been given new life and closed the chapter on our old life. The Bible gives us a number of reasons why our new chapter marked by God's Spirit is better. What motivations do the following verses give to help us follow Jesus as he leads?

- Psalm 119:1-2, Philippians 1:6, Hebrews 12:7-11

Which of these verses do you find most motivating to you? Which one is least motivating and why?

2. Battling sin is something each and everyone of us struggles with. When Jesus died on the cross, by faith we "died" with Him to our old lives. His death dealt a crushing blow to our "sin nature," yet we still live with it. We heard 3 ways we can battle sin. Which one do you find most helpful?

Read **Luke 4:1-13** about Jesus facing temptation. What other principles do you see in this passage about what it takes to successfully battle sin?

3. If we are to battle sin effectively we need to know how it works. Sin loves to take our natural desires and make "liars" out of them. It takes our natural desire for food and lies to us, and gluttony or an eating disorder takes over. What do the following verses teach us about the nature of sin?

- Hebrews 11:24-25, Ephesians 4:20-22, 1 Peter 1:14-16

How can these insights into sin be a weapon for us to battle sin victoriously?

Looking Forward:

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Take time to pray through presenting your body to Jesus. Pray specifically over each area. Present them as a "living sacrifice" to the Lord.
- In order for us to battle sin well, we need to know God's word. This is how Jesus combated sin when he was tempted. Have a quiet time Bible study every day this week.
- If we are to battle sin, we must not let it reign. Part of not letting sin reign is to avoid areas of temptation. Start changing your patterns to avoid areas of temptation: T.V shows, Internet, Gossip...

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!