

PEOPLE OF  
THE PASSION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
WEEK 3

1. What do you think Pastor Rick meant when he said “We are Barabbas”? Do you agree?
2. Read the following verses: Matthew 5:21; Matthew 5:27,28; and James 4:17. What do these verses tell us about ways that we sin that we may not even realize? What do most people think of when they think about how they sin? If someone were to say to you, “If lusting is the same as committing adultery, I might as well go ahead and commit the act of adultery,” what would you say?

Answer – The verses in Matthew tell us that thinking the wrong things is just as sinful as doing the actions and James 4:17 tells us that if there is something that is right to do and we do not do it, all of these are sin. Most people think of sin as when God tells us not to do something and then we do it anyway. What you should say to a person who says that if they are thinking lustful thoughts they should go ahead and commit adultery would be that as long as they are only thinking, their sin only damages them. As soon as they commit the act, they are then causing another person to sin also, which is actually another sin. They are compounding their sin.

3. Read Ephesians 2:8,9; Romans 4:5; and Romans 11:6. What do these verses say that is the same? When we say that salvation is not of works, what are works? When we say salvation is by faith alone, what do we mean?

Answer – These verses all say that being saved is not by doing good works. Works for salvation is when you add anything to salvation other than faith in Christ, no matter what it is. Salvation by faith means more than just acknowledging that Jesus died on the cross for sins and agreeing that it is true. It is actually placing your entire trust in Christ and His death as the only thing that will get you to heaven. It means to forsake any thought that there is something you can do or contribute to your own salvation.

4. Read Romans 7:18. When the Apostle Paul says that nothing good lives in his flesh, what do you think he means? Do you think this is true of us? In what way?



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Answer – When Paul refers to his “flesh,” he is actually speaking about what he is born into this world with. This not only includes a physical body, but also the fact that we are born with a sinful nature that only wants to do what is wrong. We are all born this way. The fact that Paul is a believer when he makes this statement shows us that even after we have trusted Christ as savior, we still have the sinful nature in us so our flesh has nothing in it still that pleases God. The difference with us is that when we trust Christ, something new is created within us that we call the new nature, which is the Holy Spirit indwelling us so there is part of us that only wants to do what is right.

5. If I am a Christian and all of my sins have been forgiven when I trusted in Christ as my savior, then why did Pastor Rick say we need to confess our sins to God? If we do not, are we saved?

Answer – When you trusted Christ as your savior, you were immediately saved from the penalty of your sin, which would have been to die and spend eternity in hell. You were given eternal life the moment that you trusted in Christ. Now, as a Christian, we are to maintain a relationship with our heavenly Father and as any relationship, when we offend God we need to apologize so that our relationship can continue to progress. If we do not confess our sin to God then that will become a road block in our relationship to God but we are still saved.

6. Pastor Rick said there were three things we should do in dealing with our sin: own it, avoid it by putting up guardrails, and offer it. What does it mean to “own it”? How about to put up guardrails?

