



DISCUSSION GUIDE

UNCHAINED FROM CONDEMNATION

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What advice would you give other Christians who feel chained to condemnation, their failures and sin?

How have feelings of condemnation and struggles with sin, past mistakes and failures kept you stuck spiritually?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way can we subtly begin to relate to God through feelings of condemnation, rather than by His grace?

How can you imagine this impacts our walk with God and relationship to others?

How can “fixating” on our failures, sin, mistakes (absent the grace of God in Christ) be worse for us?

How does knowing Satan is the accuser and liar (Rev. 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44) who hates God’s mercy impact what “voices” you listen to in terms of feeling condemned?

In what way can you learn to live in the fullness of God’s grace and love that will help you experience the freedom and peace God has for you?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [1 John 3:16-24]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

How do we know what love is? (3:16)

What question did the author ask his readers? (3:17)

How should Christians love? (3:18)

What is God greater than? (3:20)

What is the result of not being condemned by one’s heart? (3:21-22)

What is God’s command? (3:23)

What is the result of obeying God’s command? (3:24)

How do believers know that God lives in them? (3:24)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How and why are actions connected to love?

In what way is love more of a decision than a feeling?

In what ways does our heart condemn us? How is God greater than your feelings of condemnation? How can we stand with confidence before God even when we struggle with feelings of guilt, shame or condemnation?

In what way is it important for you to connect with God primarily through His grace rather than your feelings of condemnation?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?