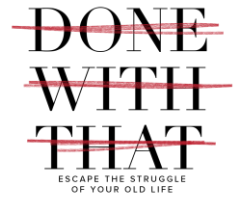


Week 3, March 19/20

Get Out of the Middle



Questions

1. What illustration, story or scripture had the greatest impact on you this week?
2. Pastor Bob quotes psychologist Henry Cloud, who says, "The most valuable things (great marriage, great career, financial independence, vibrant faith) come with a cost, and you have to make a choice." What's one thing you've had to give up to gain/maintain something valuable to you?
3. Read Romans 6:16. We're reminded that we're either slaves to sin (and death) or slaves to obedience (and life). Where have you noticed areas of your life dying because of your lack of obedience (when you're choosing death over life)? Are you losing your joy, peace, financial health, or relationships by the choices that you're making?
4. Living in the middle of sin and obedience is often miserable. Where have you been living in the middle, and how have you overcome other areas of your life where you once lived there?
5. Read Romans 8:12. What fears do you have about leaving the middle? What will you gain when you choose to walk towards obedience and freedom?
6. Pastor Bob has used Galatians 5:19-26, contrasting the acts of the flesh to the fruit of the Spirit. What are the rewards and freedoms that come with living in the Spirit, and producing that fruit? Does this motivate you to move out of the middle? How?
7. What are 2-3 practical steps you can take this week to begin the move out of the middle? One of the amazing things about small groups is that we truly do NOT have to do life alone! Whether in a group text or dividing up in some way, commit to praying for and encouraging each other to continue taking those steps this week.

Scripture References

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:12,16,18; Ephesians 2:12; Romans 8:1-2

Takeaways

To defeat the old life of sin and death, you must get out of the middle.

Weekly Action Step

Make a list of areas where you've been living in obedience, in sin, or somewhere in the middle. Which category outweighs the others? Pick one item from the "middle" category and focus on moving it towards obedience this week.