

Exposing Enemies Within the Church: A 7-Session Bible Study Series

Session 4: Antinomianism

Note: This one-page teaching plan is a summary; a leader's preparation should include studying all the material provided.

Bringing the session into focus: Christians must understand that because the Bible is one coherent and unified whole, it is wrong to pit the Old Testament against the New Testament. While the New Covenant has replaced the Old, it did not jettison God's moral law as a standard by which God wants people to live. The provisions of the New Covenant not only make salvation possible *apart* from keeping God's law, but they also make it possible for Christians to *keep His law* as they never could have on their own. You can access special resources for this Bible study session at <https://www.discoverbedrocktruth.org/00s4-resources-ewtcbs/>.

1. Read and discuss Romans 6:11-19 as suggested in the teaching plan.
2. Play the clip from Andy Stanley where he almost trashes the Ten Commandments in the name of the New Covenant. Yet Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."
3. Use the quotation by Rev. Cary Gordon that begins, "How in the world could seminaries, of all things, reject facts...?" to make the members of your group aware of the failures of Christian leaders and Christian institutions to appropriately and courageously uphold God's law in the church and in society.
4. Make and discuss the following points as suggested in the teaching plan. These are key ideas in refuting antinomianism. Distribute **Item 4.1** to the members of your group to help them follow along.
 - First, God's moral law reflects His unchanging character.
 - Second, with the implementation of the New Covenant, the ceremonial law was superseded and replaced, but God's moral law was not.
 - Third, God's way of salvation always has been by grace through faith.
 - Fourth, with the implementation of the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit resides within every believer and gives each one supernatural power to please God through obedience.
 - Fifth, living under grace motivates us to obey the Ten Commandments.
5. In discussing **principles 1-3**, use the Scriptures suggested in the teaching plan explore ways the Bible upholds the truths cited. Use **the clip of the conversation between Rev. Cary Gordon and Dr. Scott Stewart** in your discussion of the first principle. **Cover the second principle** on the list by **dividing your Bible study group into 4 smaller groups and using Item 4.2** (4 pages) to give each group Bible passages to explore and discuss. Allow time for groups to talk about the Scriptures they were assigned. After reconvening, allow each one to report its findings. **Read and discuss Jude 1-4**. When discussing the **third principle, emphasize that Old Testament saints were saved by faith in Christ, just as we are**. They looked forward in faith (although they didn't understand all we do) and we look back.
6. When you get to the **fourth principle** in the above list, use the suggested illustration of Roger Bannister's historic sub-four-minute mile to illustrate how Jesus showed that having a right relationship with God can enable people in a right relationship with Him to keep His laws — *not for* salvation, but *because they have been saved and now have supernatural power to live holy lives*. You will find the resources at <https://discoverbedrocktruth.org/antinomianism> (also at <https://www.discoverbedrocktruth.org/00s4-resources-ewtcbs/>) helpful as you lead the discussion. Also, **Item 4.3** offers numerous Scripture passages to enhance your exploration of the biblical concept of the supernatural power Christians have to live holy lives.
7. Drive home **the fifth truth** in the above list with the quotation from Dr. Adrian Rogers and the illustration at the end of the teaching plan from Bill Bright. Discuss with your participants why Christians should want to obey the Ten Commandments.
8. Conclude by reading and briefly talking about 1 John 5:2-4.
9. Close in prayer. Share with the members of your group that the next session examines pietism, the belief that Christianity relates to all things spiritual and nothing (or little) else.