



# detox

## YOUR APPROACH MATTERS

#npdetox

# Week 5

## 5 of 5

December 2, 2018

**Bottom Line:** Your approach matters.

**Icebreaker:** Play a game of “Simon Says.” Or tell about someone whose example you try to follow and why.

**Key Verse:** *And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7*

*Sin will no longer be your master. Romans 6:14*

Remember that moment when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord? You didn’t do it because you performed so well you won your way into His good graces. You humbly recognized He was offering you what you could never earn on your own. You didn’t intellectually figure out a way to beat sin. You accepted that only He could do that for you. You didn’t become a member of a new religion. You started a new, fulfilling, and transforming relationship. You took control of your own choices, and you rejected the pressures and urging of your former way of thinking and the people who would pull you away. Sin was not your master, because in that moment you believed that Jesus Christ had broken the power of sin over you, and you acted on it.

THAT’S how this phenomenal relationship with Jesus began. That’s how this relationship continues on a daily basis. You walk with Him. You become like the person you love most and spend the most time with. If that is Jesus, sin is not your master. Your life is transforming. He is not the head of your “religion.” He is the foundation, the One upon whom your entire life is built. Your concentration is not even on devising new ways to cope with temptation. You just stay close to Jesus, and that relationship’s priority edges out everything else in your life. Your faith grows strong. Your struggle with sin diminishes. Sin is NOT your master. The devil can’t “make you do it.” You overflow with thankfulness, because this relationship gradually is filling every nook and cranny in your life. You aren’t religious. You are consumed by this relationship. You are complete in Him. Your approach really matters.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

“The reason why some of you struggle with sin and the way in which you follow Jesus is that you approach Christianity like a religion.” Discuss.

What’s the difference between a religion and following Jesus? Between Christianity and a relationship?

All religions have several things in common: rules, rituals, performance, guilt. Which of these have been your biggest problem? How do you struggle?

“God never intended Jesus to be a model for you to somehow imitate. We can’t even live up to our hero’s image—how could we live up to Jesus?” Discuss.

“You know better, but you just can’t pull it off. This is the trap of all religions.” Discuss.

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

Paul says there is a better way than religion, a better way than the law. It is changing your approach from law-keeping to abiding in Christ. Discuss. How does this work?

Those who move into this way of living give up the “to-do” list and pick up the fruit list. The fruit of the Spirit is not something I work on. It is what abiding in Christ produces in me naturally. How do you struggle with this? How have you experienced it to be true?

Did your upbringing cause you to lean more toward a “to do” list or an abiding mindset? Is this concept natural to you or difficult to embrace? Explain your answer.

How do you allow the Holy Spirit access and freedom to renew your mind? “Your new identity requires abiding to flourish.” How?

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Print out Neil Anderson's Freedom in Christ list of "[Who I Am in Christ](#)." Read it daily.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Your approach matters.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: *Romans 6:24-25*

Tuesday: *John 15:5*

Wednesday: *Galatians 5:2-4*

Thursday: *Galatians 5:16-23*

Friday: *Colossians 2:6-10; Ephesians 2:8-9*

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)