

## Life Group Notes 7/14/2024

Pastor Mark Warren You Are Not Your Own (The Freedom of Letting Go)

### Week 1

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[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

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Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 7/14. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On "You Were Always on my Mind"—Willie Nelson. The lyrics.](#)

\*\*\***Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. \*\*\*

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Pastor Mark begins by taking us to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. See it in context: **15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16Or don't you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit. 18Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.**

1. What do you see?
2. Is there ever a time where your body is NOT the temple of the Holy Spirit?
3. What happens when this fact gets forgotten?
4. What does sin do to the body? Is there a part of the body that is unaffected?
5. What was the price at which you were bought?
6. Look up Matthew 13: **45Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. 46When he found one very precious pearl, he went away and sold all he had and bought it.** At what price were you purchased. Did He withhold anything?
7. What was the merchant's risk factor? How strong was the merchant's desire?
8. How does one glorify God with their body?

Pastor says, "When we live our life not for ourselves, but we live it submitted to somebody else, it changes the way we live our lives. It changes how we conduct ourselves. And it changes how we view the world. It is contrary to the way we were taught and the way we were brought up."

1. What do you think?
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. What changes?

He continues, "When we come to Jesus, when He paid the price, He bought you. In essence He has taken ownership because He paid that price. We were happy at first to give our lives to Him, happy to submit. Then we get to the point where we see things...and say, 'Wait a minute. I want those things...I want to do this.' But inside, we hear...'You are not your own anymore. You have surrendered.'"

1. Look up Romans 7: [18](#) *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh; for I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do. Instead, I keep on doing the evil I do not want to do. 20 And if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. 21 So this is the principle I have discovered: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law. 23 But I see another law at work in my body, warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me.* Have you known this struggle?
2. How does what Paul tells the Corinthians [above](#) buttress the concept of struggle that Paul described to the Romans here?
3. If our body really is the temple of the Holy Spirit how is this conflict resolved?
4. Did the world ever tell you "You can be anything you want to be?" How does that conflict with your commitment? What DO you want to be now?
5. What is "the American Dream?" What is required to achieve it? Who is the focus? Does love matter?
6. What is the Christian's hope? Is it a place in the future? Or conduct here and now? Who is the focus? How does your neighbor benefit? Does love matter?
7. How does the Christian hope trump the American dream?
8. How does "...what you possess possess you?" Has this ever happened?
9. How is it that, as Pastor Mark says, "...we can live a whole lot freer," when we realize that our life is not our own? Explain the subtitle of this series, "The freedom of letting go."
10. What is the difference between stewardship and ownership?
11. Mark says, "If you own it, it can own you. If you are a steward, it never gets a hold on you, and it cannot own you." Discuss this.
12. How does the freedom of being a steward compare to the slavery of ownership?
13. If you are a steward, whose goods are you protecting? Who else has a stake in those goods?
14. Is the steward ever alone in his task? Is the owner ever not alone?

Look up Matthew 26: [38](#) Then He said to them, "My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me." [39](#) Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."

1. What do you see?
2. Look up Hebrews 12: *2Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.* In the Garden, Jesus clearly saw the cross ahead. What, then, was the joy that He foresaw, that was “set before Him?” Who was that joy? Name names. What is the price for the pearl He foresees?
3. If His eyes foresaw *not* only the imminent trial, but also the resulting joy of His redeemed family, the fruit of His sacrifice, how did that make His burden endurable?
4. What changes when you foresee joy in the impact your decisions are having? Do you have a testimony?
5. Mark asks, “What would your life look like if you didn’t own it? What levels of freedom would you see?” Answer him.  
Pastor says, “It is much easier to relinquish something that you do not own.”
1. Explain.
2. Do you own a vehicle or lease a vehicle? What is the difference in responsibilities?
3. What do you own that has not been entrusted to you? How are you doing?
4. What changes in your own life if you do not own it? What becomes simpler?
5. What becomes harder?
6. What freedoms would increase? What decreases?
7. Mark says, “Our stuff can get heavy.” Explain.
8. Why does that weight decrease in stewardship?

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### **The Follow-up Application**

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Imagine Jesus’ name on every title of everything you own: home, auto, bank accounts. Write down what changes.
3. Imagine your job is God’s commission to you, and He sent you there as ambassador. Write down what changes. What is the impact on those around you?
4. If your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, describe what your neighbors see?

**Take the time to pray.**

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**Scribe's Notes:**

1. On **“You were Always on My Mind”**—**Willie Nelson** Pastor described the impact of a father’s plea for forgiveness, using a Willie Nelson song in a dance at the daughter’s wedding. She danced with her dad...and she has showed us that love by purchasing the LED wall for GCC to remind us all that God made Grace the Capital whereby Jesus redeems us all. Here are the lyrics:

[Verse 1]

Maybe I didn't love you  
Quite as often as I could have  
Maybe I didn't treat you  
Quite as good as I should have  
If I made you feel second best  
Girl, I'm sorry I was blind

[Chorus]

You were always on my mind  
You were always on my mind

[Verse 2]

And maybe I didn't hold you  
All those lonely, lonely times  
And I guess I never told you  
I'm so happy that you're mine  
Little things I should have said and done  
I just never took the time

[Chorus]

And you were always on my mind  
You were always on my mind

[Bridge]

Tell me, tell me that your  
Sweet love hasn't died  
And give me  
Give me one more chance  
To keep you satisfied  
Keep you satisfied

[Outro]

Little things I should have said and done  
I just never took the time  
But you were always on my mind  
You were always on my mind  
You were always on my mind  
You were always on my mind

**For further study:**

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20  
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 7:20-24  
Wednesday: Romans 12:1-3  
Thursday: Romans 12:4-8  
Friday: Hebrews 12:2-4  
Saturday: Matthew 13:45-46  
Sunday: Romans 7:18-23

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.