

## Chapter 2:

# Gospels of Sin Management: *How the gospel of the kingdom has been reduced to systems without Jesus as Teacher*

**Introduction:** Religion can be seen as a method to deal with or manage sin. People may focus on personal sin or the greater sphere of systemic sin in the world. Willard argues that faith is much more than rules used to manage sin. God really wants to invite people, beyond sin management, into a relational journey of discipleship and transformation. In this view Jesus is more than a “guilt remover”, he is the one who shows us what real life is.

- **Words:** Sin Management. How do you approach the problem of sin in the world? Lordship Salvation (saved from personal sin) or Social Ethics (removal of structural sin and evil) as two spheres of sin management. Transformational Discipleship.
- **Images:** Salvation from an *event* to a *process*.
- **Scripture:** *John 15:1-17*

### **To Discuss:**

What did you connect with in this chapter or in this week's sermon?

What questions do you have? What gave you pause?

Where does this connect with your life today?

How can you be called God's friend?

What does it mean to be involved in God's business?

How does Jesus teach us what he learned from the Father?

In your own life and background do you focus more on personal sin or corporate/systemic sin?

What is abundant life? How do we know if we are living it?

### **Choose a Practice This Week:**

**Journal:** Take time to consider and write on what means or looks like for you to grow as a disciple of Christ.

**Read:** *John 15:1-8* and write your own psalm with words of desire to abide or remain in Jesus.

**Activity:** Look at a picture of yourself when you were a child. Who impacted and encouraged you the most? Think of a favorite teacher and imagine that Jesus wants to be a teacher to you now. How does that feel?