HOW TO PLEASE GOD

Living The Sermon On The Mount - Wk 10

ICEBREAKER: What insults your intelligence?

OVERVIEW: When you read the Old Testament, especially the first five books, you notice hundreds and hundreds of laws. How do we know which laws to keep today? Did Jesus destroy the law? What is the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. On Sunday we learned that Christ fulfilled the purposes of the law, and that now the way to please God is by faith expressing itself through love. In this study we will dig deeper into these questions and learn more about pleasing God in light of the relationship between Christ and the law.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)

2. Read Romans 10:1-13. Verses 2-3 talk about "misdirected zeal," or "zeal, but not according to knowledge." What are the dangers of zeal without knowledge? What does this passage say to idea that "it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere"?

3. What can we learn about Jesus, the law, and pleasing God from this passage?

4. Read Galatians 5:1-6. Paul says that if you are relying on the law to be made right with God then you must keep all the laws perfectly and Christ is of no benefit to you. Why does Paul make this conclusion?

5. What does it mean to please God with faith? With love?

6. Read Galatians 5:13-15. How do some people abuse their freedom in Christ? If the entire law can be summed up in love, how loving are you? To your spouse? To your children? To your church family? To your coworkers? How can you be more loving?

7. What are the ways that Jesus fulfilled "the law and the prophets?" What does that mean for Christ-followers today?

8. How do we know that God still wants us to keep the Ten Commandments? Read Exodus 20:1-17. How well are you keeping the Ten Commandments?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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The Law became history when Jesus died. No longer will it be required of you and me to fulfill the Law, because Jesus will have done it. Once we put our faith in Jesus and rely upon His righteousness, God pronounces us to have fulfilled the law. — R.T. Kendall

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