



SONS & DAUGHTERS
Self-Righteousness Exposed
Week 4

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Daniel Garcia and Emmaus Church San Bernadino.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

- No more unauthorized chocolate
- “Get outta my kitchen!”

1 Timothy 1:8 (NIV)

8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

What happens when we don't use the law properly? Well, we turn the law into the gospel. We use the law as our good news instead of what Christ has done for us. Now, why would we do that? Because it's less messy. We can simply say, "Give me the law to follow. Then I can feel righteous when I keep it."

**Big Idea: How we use the law
exposes our self-righteousness.**

1 Timothy 1:8 (NIV)

8 We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.

What are some signs you might be using the law improperly?

1. Looking for credit for your good deeds.
2. Defensiveness when you fail.
3. Comparing yourself with others.
4. Focused on your reputation.

What is the misunderstanding we have in our use of the law in these cases?

1. Looking for credit for your good deeds.
You're giving the law a power it does not possess. The law cannot make you righteous.

Galatians 3:21

²¹ Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

2. Defensiveness when you fail. You're relying on the law to change you, to make you righteous. That's why you defend yourself, to prove your use of the law is working, to prove you really haven't failed.

Romans 10:3 (NIV)

3 Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

3. Comparing yourself with others. You're basing your righteousness on your behavior instead of upon the received righteousness of Christ.

John 21:22

22 Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!”

4. Focused on your reputation. You’re being self-centered instead of Christ-centered. You’re focused on your goodness (your own self-righteousness) instead of Christ.

John 15:20

20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they

persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

- **Anxiety | If you're prone to worry and you stop worrying for five-minutes because you believe God is with you and is working everything out, don't you feel guilty when you don't worry? | That's too carefree! What am I? A hippie?**

If we're to use the law properly, we have to know what the law can do and what can't it do?

**The law is good because it:
shows us how our faith should express itself.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
maintain our relationship with God or with others.

**The law is good because it:
shows us what Jesus is like.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:

give us righteousness.

**The law is good because it:
reveals the character of God.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
justify those who break it.

**The law is good because it:
brings wisdom, sanity and direction.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
free us from bondage, guilt and corruption.

The law is good because it:

drives us to Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The law is powerless because it cannot:
give us power.

**The law is good because it:
restrains wickedness.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
give us life.

**The law is good because it:
convicts of sin.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
provide us with a substitute.

**The law is good because it:
is written on our hearts.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
give us the gift of the Spirit.

**The law is good because it:
is part of love.**

The law is powerless because it cannot:
cleanse our conscience.

Romans 10:3 (NIV)

3 Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

Can you think of any ways that you try and establish your own righteousness? Let's go back to our opening examples. How many of you have set down certain rules for life? And you expect others to abide by those rules, don't you? I'm always announcing a new rule in our home. I do it so often my wife mocking goes, "Oh, no, here we go. Another one of dad's rules."

- **Looking for credit for your good deeds.**
- **Defensiveness when you fail.**
- **Comparing yourself with others.**
- **Focused on your reputation.**