

# OVERRIGHTEOUS

November 17, 2019

## I. INTRODUCTION TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

**Ecclesiastes 7:16-18** Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise— why destroy yourself? Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool— why die before your time? It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

### *A. To be righteous is to be in right relationship with God.*

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

**Psalms 24:3-6 (ESV)** Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

### *B. When I move away from sin and look to God, that is righteousness.*

**Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.

**1 John 2:6** Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.

**Romans 13:14** Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- We are always in the process of becoming more like Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**Ecclesiastes 7:16** Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise— why destroy yourself?

### *C. When I move away from God and look to self, that is overrighteousness.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**Ecclesiastes 7:17** Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool—why die before your time?

- Where you look is where you will go.

**Ecclesiastes 7:18** It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

## II. SYMPTOMS OF OVERRIGHTEOUSNESS

### 1. *Overrighteousness and Others*

*A. If criticism is replacing love, you might be overrighteous.*

**Luke 15:28-30** “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’”

- The hypocrite is more worried about position than direction.
- The hypocrite is concerned with where you are and not who you are.

**Philippians 2:5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*B. If condemnation is replacing grace, you might be overrighteous.*

**Titus 3:5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

- The best way to look at righteousness with a mirror and not a window.
- Is rationalization replacing your repentance?
- Is accusation replacing your conviction?

**Matthew 23:25-28** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to

people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

## ***2. Overrighteousness and God***

*A. If delusion is replacing discernment, you might be overrighteous.*

**Luke 9:33** As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

It is time to pray for discernment when your decisions have become based on personal faith and not on the leading of the Holy Spirit.

*B. If pride is replacing patience, you might be overrighteous.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

**Ecclesiastes 11:4-6** Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

- Embrace the process of what God is doing in your life.

## ***3. Overrighteousness and You***

*A. If ownership is replacing stewardship, you might be overrighteous.*

**Ecclesiastes 5:18-19** This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

*B. If ego is replacing identity, you might be overrighteous.*

- It is a dangerous place to be when you view your value through the perception of others and not your identity in Christ.
- I'm wrong when I have to be right. I lose when I have to win.
- Remember who you are.

**1 John 3:1** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Romans 12:1-2** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Ecclesiastes 7:16** Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise— why destroy yourself?

**Psalms 25:15** My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only He will release my feet from the snare.

**Psalms 25:15** (The Message) If I keep my eyes on God, I won't trip over my own feet.