

# **Dangers Facing the Church: Not Recognizing the Difference In Being Right & Being Self-Righteous**

**Sunday PM 02/23/20**

## **Introduction:**

The Bible speaks of being “righteous” and also warns us of being “self-righteous.” It is good to do what is right and to know you are doing what is right. Good to be diligent and to seek to please God by His Word. But it is bad to be “self-righteous.”

### **I) Problems created by self-righteousness**

- A) Problem with self – we don’t examine ourselves and make corrections.**
- B) Problem with our children- they see our faults and reject the Gospel.**
- C) Problem with the world – they won’t listen to us.**
- D) Self-righteous people received harsh criticism from Jesus, *Matthew 23.12,13.***
  - 1. They were not atheist, or idolaters.
  - 2. They were children of Abraham, but they were lost.

### **II) The Danger of Self-Righteousness, *Luke 18.9-14***

- A) Trusted in self and not God-**
  - 1. The Pharisee did not need God’s mercy.
  - 2. The tax collector- recognized his need for and asked for God’s mercy.
- B) Pride and self-righteousness go together.**
  - 1. I don’t need God’s grace; I am a Christian!

2. Look at all the good things I do.

### III) The Danger of Self-Righteousness

#### A) Examples of Self-Righteousness

1. “I do all this religious stuff - therefore I am better than others & RIGHT — **Luke 18:9-14**
2. “I have kept the Law - I’m good!” — **Luke 18:18-23**
3. “I am sincere and zealous for God” — **Rom. 10:1-3**

#### B) Signs of the Self-Righteous

1. Some wish to return to the Law of Moses – (**Romans, Galatians, Hebrews**)
2. Some want to make their own rules! – (**Mat. 15:7-9**)
3. Even the commands of Christ “can be” approached from a self-righteous perspective - (**Luke 18:9-14, 18-23**)

#### C) Self-Righteousness is NOT the same as BEING RIGHTEOUS

1. For the sinner to be righteous he must be forgiven — **Rom 4:5.6; Acts 2:38; 22:16**
2. We are to live rightly — **Rom. 1:16,17; 10.3**

#### D) “If You TEACH we HAVE to live RIGHT - Aren’t you a LEGALIST?”

1. Legalism — “the attempt to be justified strictly according to a system of law, without God’s grace.”
2. Legalism — “One is RIGHT because he has NEVER been WRONG - therefore the right standing is deserved or earned - it is not of grace but of merit - **Romans 4:4; 11:6**

3. God has ALWAYS condemned the person who is lifted up with pride because of his obedience, who trusts in his own goodness, and who expects to receive God's favor on the BASIS of those actions! (**Luke 17:10**)
  - a. God approves those who keeps His **Word, Ps. 1.1-2**
  - b. God condemns the lawless, **Matthew 7.21-23**
  - c. God condemns those with the wrong attitude while doing what He says.
4. "If You teach we have to live right - Aren't you a legalist?"
  - a. Denominationalism & those of the liberal persuasion have redefined "legalism" in such a fashion as to shift the meaning from the attitude of being self-righteous, to the ACTION of humble, conscientious obedience to all of God's word. (**Eccl. 12:13; Micah 6:8**)

**E) "If You teach we have to obey - Aren't you a Pharisee?"**

1. They were hypocrites – (**Mat. 23:4-7,25-28**)
2. They gave attention to "some" of God's law and overlooked other aspects of it – (**Mat. 23:23,24**)
3. They went about binding & enforcing human traditions, laws and doctrines beyond the actual teachings of the Law, **Matthew 15.7-9**
4. They anticipated receiving God's favor based upon who they were and the amount of Law they kept – (**John 8:33; Gal. 2:16; 3:10,11**)
5. By condemning the Gentiles of their sins they also condemned themselves— **Rom 2:1-11**

## **F) The Pharisees Real Problem**

1. They were NEVER condemned because they were too zealous about strict obedience to God's revealed will.
2. Their problem was a HEART problem — being far from God, ***Matt. 15.8***

## **G) Paul Was NOT A Self-Righteous Legalist**

1. The NEED to properly apply the Scripture ***(3:17-25: 4:21)***.
2. Necessity of Water Baptism ***(3:26-27)***.
3. Condemned sin ***(5:16-21)***.
4. Correction of sin ***(6:1, 2)***.
5. Walk according to THIS rule – ***(6:16)***

## **H) “WE MUST BE OBEDIENT IN ALL THINGS”**

1. But let us never be proud of it, ***1 John 2.3-6***

### **Conclusion:**

What will you hear on the Day of Judgement? Well done good and faithful servant, or, depart from me, you who work lawlessness?