

Review:

Lesson 1: Diverging Gospels

Lesson 2: Deconstruction

Lesson 3: Christian Cooperation

Lesson 4: Treating Hypocrisy

Law versus Grace

Galatians 3:1-14

The danger and ultimate foolishness of legalism for the Christian go far beyond our _____...they apply just as much to our ongoing way of relating with God and how we try to be made right with God.

Discussion 1. Legalism isn't just keeping the law...it is keeping the law for the wrong reasons. For a Christian, what are some bad reasons for keeping the law? What are some good reasons for keeping the law?

God didn't try the law on us, decide it wouldn't work, and then send Jesus to fix it. From the very beginning, God's intention was that only our _____ (not our rule-keeping) would ever put us into a right relationship with Him.

Discussion 2. Why is it important that the doctrine of "salvation by faith" is not just a New Testament (or "recent") thing? Why does it matter whether or not that was the plan for the people of the ancient world?

Living in bondage to the law is a curse which perpetuates itself and spreads like a virus. To meet our desire to be made right before our Creator, we have only one option: _____

Discussion 3. Without naming names, can you think of any examples of a church culture where being made right with God depends upon outward behavior? How (or why) might that culture tend to perpetuate itself?

Questions which all have the same answer: What arrangement has God made for the atonement of the world's sins? What is the answer to the curse God's law places on humanity? How does God's promise to Abraham now extend to Gentiles? _____.

Discussion 4. Jesus should be at the center of every Christ follower's faith. What kinds of things are Christians sometimes guilty of having at the center of their faith rather than Jesus? How do you test yourself to see if Jesus is really at the center of your faith?