

Review:

Lesson 1: Whom God Blesses

Lesson 2: Salt & Light

Law in 3D (Pt. 1)

Matthew 5:17-32

Jesus did not come to abolish nor to replace God's law, but he absolutely intended to change how we understand it. He sought to move us from mere legal compliance to a more

Discussion 1. If “legal compliance” asks, “What is the easiest way to be in compliance with the law?”, what question do you think “relational compliance asks”? Why is this a higher standard?

If my understanding of what God wants for me never gets beyond my outward behavior, then I have missed major opportunities for a deeper, more robust _____ with Him and with others.

Discussion 2. Think about “Thou shalt not kill.” If the goal is a deeper relationship with God rather than just following the law, how does that change your choices? How does it change your worship? How does it challenge you?

Once we understand that our sin begins with how we think (and not with how we act), then the solutions for avoiding sin become radically different. Living in relationship with Jesus changes _____.

Discussion 3. As a Christ follower, being made holy is about changing how we think. What does God use in your life to change how you think? Why is this sometimes a painful process?

As Christ followers, when our focus is merely on legal compliance with God's law, then we will interpret that law in a way that is easiest for us. But when our focus is on loving God well, it impacts everything, including all the _____ in our lives.

Discussion 4. How do you think a person focused on loving God reads the Bible differently from a person focused on keeping God's laws? Can you think of any ways your love of God has impacted the other relationships in your life?