

# GOSPEL

## from self-righteousness to humility

**Week 2 | Gospel | April 19, 2015**

### **Opening Up:**

- When you receive strict guidelines in any area of life, what is your reaction? Do you feel confident, burdened, overwhelmed, insecure, indignant, helpless, something else?

### **Reference Romans chapters 3-8.**

### **Discuss:**

1. What areas of life do you feel "should on"? In other words, what areas do you feel as though there are a lot of things you should do that are imposed on you by others? Or are you guilty of imposing your own self-determined law on others?
2. How do you "should on" yourself? Or in other words, what kinds of laws do you impose on yourself?
3. Read Romans 3:23-24. How have you been guilty of trying to justify yourself rather than recognizing that God alone justifies us?
4. Read Galatians 3:21-24. According to this verse, one purpose of law is to show us how incapable we really are. Because of the law, we are left with an awareness of our complete and utter failure to be righteous before God. Why do you think God would require things of us we are not capable of?
5. Have you ever witnessed strict rules result in a changed life (particularly a person's heart or motivation)?
6. Read Romans 8:1-4. How does it make you feel to know there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus? According to those verses, what does change people?
7. How can a marriage (or really any relationship) be affected by constant reminders that you are a sinner in a relationship with another sinner?
8. What's wrong with the mindset that treats love like a commodity or says, "I will love you as long as you love me" or "I will be the spouse I ought to be as long as you're the spouse you ought to be"?
9. The sermon mentioned the crazy cycle where without love, she reacts, without respect, he reacts. Does this sound familiar? How could couples prevent the crazy cycle?
10. In what ways can self-focus or self-centeredness hurt a relationship, particularly a marriage?
11. How can Jesus' grace to us help us when we are tempted to be selfish in our relationships?
12. Pray.