

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Let Kindness Change You

Romans 2:1-5

Additional passages: Luke 18:9-14

Additional resource: Article by Tim Keller about moralism and relativism or about religion and irreligion.

- [Summary](#)
- Link to full article available at the bottom of the summary.

Introduction: John noted how we can picture Paul's audience of religious people (Jews) saying "amen" to Romans 1:18-32 because Paul was calling out the sin of irreligious people. In chapter 2, Paul directly addresses his religious audience, with the prescription for both types of people being the same – the gospel of Jesus Christ (Consider Romans 3:9-12, 21-26).

Questions:

1. John noted that we can be prone to spiritual comparison, prone to focusing on the egregious sin of others and forgetting to acknowledge our own sin before God. Whose standard should we be measuring ourselves against? Why does only God have the authority to be the judge?
2. John noted that it is possible for us to get on "righteous crusades" to the degree that we forget our own sin. Where/how are you prone to this in your own life?
3. John said you need a Savior from your anger just as much as the homosexual needs from his perversion. What implications does this have for your attitude towards people living a blatantly sinful lifestyle? How about your attitude towards God/how you live in relationship with Him?
4. John said, "When the church is filled with posturing, comparing, petty competition, we are no different than the world." What truths about the gospel disarm spiritual comparison? What truths about the gospel disarm pride?
5. To presume is to act or proceed with unwarrantable or impertinent boldness; to take something for granted. Do you struggle with presuming God will forgive you, so your sin isn't a big deal? Or are you more prone to struggling with presuming your own morality is good enough to make God pleased with you based on your works? Or perhaps are you prone to your day-to-day countenance/perspective being based more on how well you obey than on Jesus' perfect obedience for you?
6. Does your day-to-day life reflect a confidence that God's love for you is based not on your moral performance, but on the perfect holiness of Jesus Christ?

Notes from Keller's article:

- Moralism is the view that you are acceptable (to God, the world, others, yourself) through your attainments.
- Relativism is the view that everyone needs to determine what is right and wrong for themselves.

"They seem so different, but from the viewpoint of the gospel, they are really the same. *They are both ways to avoid Jesus as Savior and keep control of their lives.*" ~ Tim Keller.

Extended quote:

"Irreligious people seek to be their own saviors and lords through "worldly" pride. ("No one tells me how to live or what to do; I determine what is right and wrong for me!") But moral and religious people seek to be their own saviors and lords through "religious" pride. ("I am more moral and spiritual than other people, so God owes it to me to listen to my prayers and take me to heaven. God cannot let just anything happen to me—he owes me a happy life. I've earned it!"). The irreligious person rejects Jesus entirely; the religious person uses Jesus as an example and helper and teacher—but not as a Savior."