

Small Group Discussion Questions

Spirit and Truth: Rediscovering Christian Worship

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 6: Justified

Romans 5:1-8

1. Do you think of yourself as a “good person”? If so, what concrete evidence would you point to? Where do you get your standard for measuring goodness? Who would you trust to give you an honest answer if you had to ask another person whether you are a good person?
2. What are the risks of being our own judges of right and wrong?
3. What are the risks of relying on other human beings to tell us whether we're right or wrong?
4. What are some things you use to try to prove yourself good or acceptable to other people?
5. What is the alternative to the “Law of the Flesh” – a morality based solely on human instinct and experience?
6. In what ways is the Law of God a gift? In what ways is the Law of God a curse or burden? Can we prove ourselves “good” before God?
7. In Romans 8, the Apostle Paul introduces a third “Law” – an alternative to the “Law of the Flesh” and the “Law of God”. What is it?
8. In the context of the New Testament, “justified” is a legal term. What does it mean?
9. In whose sight are we *guilty*? What is the cost of our guilt?
10. According to Paul, what is the one way we can be *justified*?
11. Our justification has two components. What one thing does Jesus remove from us? What one thing does Jesus add to us?
12. What three main benefits to our justification does Paul identify in today's passage? Can you think of ways these benefits might translate into real change in your life?

Pray: Apologize to God for the ways you have settled for “goodness” on your own terms; Ask God to show you the flaws in your efforts to prove yourself to the world and to God; Accept Jesus' sacrifice on your behalf and exchange your guilt for His goodness.