

# Group Questions- *I want to believe, but... Week 2*

*Kill-Joy God*

10/01/23 – Pastor Kirby

## *Getting to Know Me Questions:*

- What's the craziest or silliest rule (about anything) you've had to follow?
- If you could change, add or remove one rule (for anything), what is it and why?

## *Into the Bible Questions:*

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting etc?
- Have you heard this idea of 'I want to believe in God, but it's just a bunch of rules.'? What do you think when you hear it? How have you responded?
- What are/were some "unwritten rules" (Our "Mishna") you have heard or had to follow in church – spoken or unspoken? How do you think this shaped your view of God?
- **READ:** Matthew 23:25-26; Luke 10:25-26
- How was the church leader in the Luke passage demonstrating the "fence law"?
- How has the modern-day church, and myself, done this?
- One of the tensions of faith is the external and internal change.
- **READ:** Romans 3:19-20
- Laws aren't bad, they're helpful, even in religion. In faith, what is the purpose of the law?
- We are told in Proverbs 4 to guard our heart.
- **READ:** Luke 23:39-43
- When you hear this story, what goes through your mind? How does the idea of a "bad person" on their death bed choosing Jesus, sit with you?
- Pastor Kirby said "The love of God has a bigger table, not a higher fence."
- **LISTEN:** Song "Bigger Table" by Matt Maher (find on youtube, spotify, etc)
- **REFLECT:** How have I and the Church built a fence around faith that tells people they better obey the rules if they want to come to Church? Or they want to find Jesus?

## *Application Questions:*

- The Gospel says: Love God with everything in you.
  - We have said: 'You and I had better obey, or God's not going to love me or you!'
  - Who have you held to rules and law instead of love and grace? Reach out to them with the grace and love of Jesus this week.
  - Read/Memorize/Reflect on Romans 3:22 this week
- <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

## Week 1: On-Demand God

### Kill-joy God

My religion focuses on the external life

#### Matthew 23:25-26

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Mishna – Collected “Oral laws”

#### Luke 10:25-26

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

### 7 Woes : Matthew 23

#### Romans 14:22-23

<sup>22</sup> So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. <sup>23</sup> But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

#### Proverbs 4:23

<sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your heart,  
for everything you do flows from it.

#### Romans 3:3-4, 9-10, 19-20

<sup>3</sup> What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God’s faithfulness? <sup>4</sup> Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written:  
“So that you may be proved right when you speak  
and prevail when you judge.”

<sup>9</sup> What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law

Why did God give laws if we couldn't live up to them?

The purpose of the law is to show us of our need for a savior.

Romans 3:20

<sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:21-24

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in [\[h\]](#) Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Because God loves me, and I'm accepted in Christ, I choose to follow him.

The love of God has a bigger table, not a higher fence.

Man complicates what God made simple.

Man complicates with laws, but Jesus simplifies with love.