

Mere outward conformity to laws, while ignoring the spirit behind them (love for God and others) is a _____ religion, i.e., mere surface touch-ups (Mat. 23:25-28). We can never **earn** our way to eternal life with our well-intentioned and religious righteousnesses (Isa. 1:14-17; 64:6; Mat. 7:21-23; John 8:44; Rom. 3:28). If this were true, Jesus' death would have been unnecessary (Gal. 2:21).

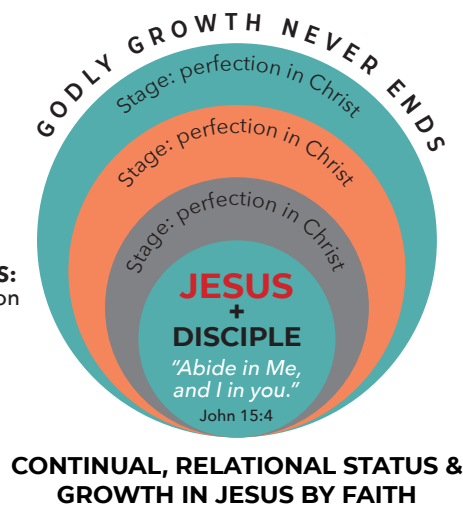
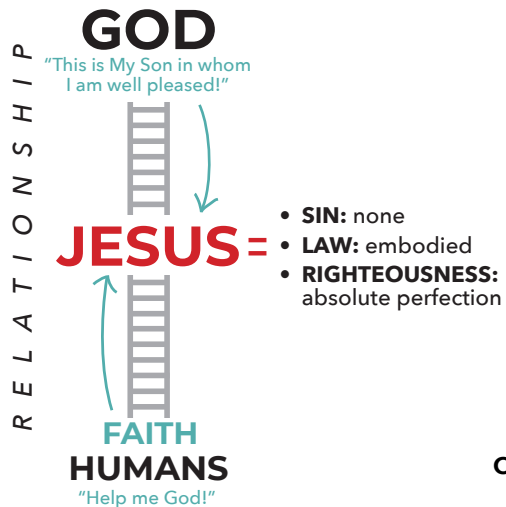
IV. Putting It All Together

SIN, LAW, and RIGHTEOUSNESS

- SIN is a **condition** leading to _____ (deeds). This condition (marred heart) is the true mess, unsolvable by man (Jer. 13:23).
- God's LAW (love) is the greatest (Jn. 13:35; 1 Cor. 13:13; Col. 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:14). Without it, religiosity is _____ (1 Cor. 13:1-3).
- The RIGHTEOUSNESS God offers is His legal declaration in favor of one who has faith in *Christ's* righteousness, **not** one's own.

1 Human perfection (good works) can never reach God's standard of perfection. Only Jesus is Perfection. But by faith, we can claim Jesus as our own and God will see His perfect life in our stead and "justify the ungodly."

2 Bible perfection is **faithfulness to a relationship** rather than ethical quality. But the disciple, through the Holy Spirit, grows in holiness, the fruit of the relationship. Good works are vital (Ps. 62:12; Eph. 2:10), but never one's right of passage.



WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT & WITH FIRE

S E R M O N S E R I E S

STUDY GUIDE 5

HOW TO BECOME THE PERFECT CHRISTIAN

Sermon series and study guides by pastor Ray A. Navarro
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Scripture quotes taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated

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The Holy Spirit's specialty is developing Christ's character in us until it is "perfectly reproduced." At last—perfection! But what does it mean to be perfect? Does our picture of perfection match the Bible's? To understand perfection, a review of some basic truths are in order.

I. SIN vs. sins

A. SIN

- **SIN = Love.** SIN (all caps) is really about love—of self. Proper love for self as the Bible endorses (Lev. 19:18; Mat. 22:39) is not the issue; a bias and regard of self that tags all else as subservient (especially God) is.
- **Began in heaven, continued on earth.** Love of self began with Lucifer in heaven (Isa. 14:12-14). His insistence on "self-pursuit" resulted in inevitable war, ousting him from heaven (Rev. 12:4, 7-9; Eze. 28:15-18). Lucifer leavened this self-love onto earthlings (Gen. 3:4-6; Mat. 23:5-7; Luke 11:43; 2 Tim. 3:1, 2).
- **The Results of SIN:**
 1. SIN is a _____, dethroning God from His rightful place and crowning self as lord.
 2. SIN is a warped heart _____, a fallen state of _____ (not just bad things done). It is a default *disposition* against God (Psa. 14:1-3; Isa. 1:2, 4; Jer. 17:9; Hos 7:13; Rom. 8:7). ***This is the deepest and truest sense of lawlessness (1 John 3:4).***

B. Sins

- **Sins (lower case).** They are bad things done, thus _____ of SIN. Sinful acts are expressions of a corrupt heart (Pro. 4:23; Luke 6:45), "anti-Holy Spirit" deeds (Rom. 8:12, 13; Gal. 5:16, 17).
- **Unwitting sins.** Not all sins are intentional (Lev. 4:2, 13, 22, 23; Num. 15:22-27; Psa. 19:12, 13; 1 Tim. 1:13); unwitting sins are worlds apart from *pre-meditated* acts; but all sins are still sins.
- **Sins are easy targets.** It's easy to target *sins* (what we do or don't, i.e., sins of commission or omission) as our real dilemma, but this is a _____. We tend to _____ *sins* (e.g., some sins are worse than others therefore some people are worse than others) and ignore the real issue: SIN. This can lead to spiritual pride or its equally harmful opposite, a fixation on one's own defects. Either way, this posture can lead towards behaviorism.

II. LAW vs. laws

1. The Old Testament contains many laws (moral, civil, ceremonial). Jewish tradition says there are 613 laws in the Torah.
2. The undergirding **LAW** behind all God's laws is the principle of love:

— **Love is Always the Way** —

All God's laws depend on this **LAW**. Jesus said in Mat. 22:37-40:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and _____ commandment. The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments _____ the whole _____ and the _____. (also Deu. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14.)

3. Obeying God's laws without the **LAW** of love in the heart is mere religious display (Isa. 29:13; Hos. 7:14; 8:2; Mic. 3:11; 1 Cor. 13:1-3).
4. The definitive test of God's love in the human heart is the most vexing of all (couldn't Jesus be more flexible on this one?):

"But I say to you, love your _____ and pray for those who persecute you" (Mat. 5:44).

III. RIGHTEOUSNESS vs. righteousneses

An important distinction exists between God's RIGHTEOUSNESS provided for humans, and human good deeds—righteousneses.

A. God and His RIGHTEOUSNESS

The (forensic) RIGHTEOUSNESS of God for humans is one that He declares and registers in heaven to those who have confesed _____ in Christ—indicating a *relationship*.

- "But to the one who...believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his *faith is credited* as righteousness" (Rom. 4:5).
- "Gentiles...attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is *by faith*" (Rom. 9:30).

B. Humans and their righteousneses

- Righteousneses (good deeds) are evidence of love for God (Gen. 4:7; Ps. 37:3; Eccl 12:13; Isa 1:17; Mat. 7:12; Titus 3:8).
- Righteousneses can be easy targets as worthy means to enter God's kingdom (due to our strong emphasis on right-doing). The Pharisees felt this way, but Jesus didn't (Mat. 5:20). Why?