



Sermon Notes: Bad News for Good People

Background: Jesus attacks the two pillars of the Pharisees' identity: their performance and their prosperity.

1. The Law of God sets the standard.

2. The heart of man adjusts the standard.

a. By lowering the standard to something achievable.

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b. By elevating our performance to something adequate.

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Why do we do this?

3. The Gospel of Jesus fulfills the standard.

Gospel Application:



Application Questions: Bad News for Good People

1. In what areas of life do you most naturally allow the Word of God to set the standard for you? Where do you struggle with this? Why do you think you have a harder time letting the Bible guide some areas of your life than others?
2. What are some reasons for you to *delight* in the Law of God?
3. In your own words, what is self-justification?
4. Why do humans instinctively self-justify?
5. What are some ways you've observed people lowering the standard of God's Word in order to justify something sinful? What are some ways you've observed people adjusting the record of their own performance to appear more righteous?
6. What would you say is the ultimate problem with self-justification? Why is it so bad/dangerous?
7. If you really believed that Jesus had fulfilled the Law on your behalf, how would that change the way you think and act and talk about *your own* struggles and failures?
8. If you really believed that Jesus had fulfilled the Law on behalf of every other Christian, how would that change the way you think and act and talk about *their* struggles and failures?
9. What has prevented you from doing #7 and, to a lesser degree, #8? What can you do about that? What can we do to help you in community?
10. What one specific thing will you do with this message?