

CHRISTIANITY VS RELIGION

Matthew 5:13-20

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. GOSPEL GOODNESS IS BRIGHTER THAN RELIGIOUS RIGHTEOUSNESS
2. GOSPEL GOODNESS IS DEEPER THAN RELIGIOUS RIGHTEOUSNESS
3. GOSPEL GOODNESS IS SWEETER THAN RELIGIOUS RIGHTEOUSNESS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Pastor Ryan pointed out that the way of life that Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount (aka Christianity) is both vastly superior to and utterly distinct from religion. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. Last week was about the difference between Christianity and the world. This week was about the difference between Christianity and religion. After listening to this message, do you see more gospel goodness or religious righteousness in your life?
4. People with gospel goodness are attracted to the world in order to preserve it (like salt). What are some ways you are entering into the "decay" in the world in order to bring healing? How do we enter into the brokenness of the world without it overwhelming us?
5. People with gospel goodness are attractive to the world (like light). The word Jesus uses for "good" in Matt. 5:16 means "beautiful." What's the difference between a beautiful life and a life that is only focused on being morally good? What about your life is beautiful?
6. We can do morally good things and morally bad things for the same reasons: fear and pride. What are some ways you see fear and/or pride influencing your behavior?
7. Gospel goodness is sweeter than religious righteousness because we aren't trying to work to get God as our father, we are working from the reality that we already have Him as Father. What helps you relate to God as a good, loving Father? What are some barriers to you seeing Him as a good, loving Father?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: Religion is all about standing on your own two feet. Christianity is all about falling at the feet of Jesus.