

BEWARE OF LEGALISM

Philippians 2.19-30

LEGALISM: THE ENEMY OF THE CROSS

After Paul would evangelize, often times others would come in, Jews who had such a zeal they wanted others to live up to the Jewish Law. They would often call themselves "the Circumcision," because circumcision was given to the Jews as an outward sign of what was going on in the inside of them. But as humans do, instead of it being evidence of our love for God, it became a sign of our own pride in our obedience, rather than a sign of God's grace towards us.

Ironically, though these Jews would often call Gentiles "dogs," now Paul is calling these Jews the real "dogs," and that they are just people who mutilate the flesh. He claims, now, that "we are the circumcision."

Romans 2.28, 29

ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES

It's easy for us to bag on the Pharisees, like we poke fun at guys like Peter. But in reality, we probably can find far more similarities with them than we care to admit. We need to understand at least two things about the Pharisees:

- 1) Like most genuine believers, the Pharisees strived to live up to the highest possible standard. They wanted to do all they could to honor God and His Word to every degree.
- 2) We may laugh at some of their extra rules, but they derived their rules based on the result of a rigorous study of Scripture.

The problem lies within our belief that everyone else should look just as we look. When we have our passion (orphan care, missions, bible study, homeless ministry, homeschooling, certain theologies/topics), we might start to notice that some will lag behind and not share the same degree of passion as we do. We see this as a "problem."

Larry Osborne says, "If you continue farther down the path of contempt for those who fail to keep up, you'll end up in a place of arrogance. Fewer and fewer people will measure up to your definition of a genuine disciple...and your metamorphosis will be complete. You will have arrived at a place you never intended to go. You'll be a full-fledged Pharisee. Accidental, no doubt. But a Pharisee nonetheless."

Luke 18.9-14

HOPE FOR THE UNRELIGIOUS ...AND THE PHARISEE

What is the solution for the unreligious and struggling Christian? Are you not "feeling" God in your life? Are you in a dry season with no passion for the Word or prayer? Do you not compare well to others? Or maybe for the accidental Pharisee; do you recognize your pride and arrogance or smugness towards others? Do you see the subtle disdain you have for people who aren't like you? There is hope for both, and the solution is the same: **Do Your ABC's.**

- **Admit your sin**
- **Believe the Promises of God**
- **Confess your need and desire for faith**

You say, "God have mercy on me, a sinner." Confess to both God and others how you have sinned against Him and wronged others. But then believe that God is at work in you, that He desires to help you change and grow for His sake, your sake, and others' sake.

NOTES:

Upcoming Sermons:

Philippians 3.12-16: Paul will be encouraging the church in the life-long pursuit of being a believer and pressing on toward the prize and the need for perseverance, even amid the hard work. The following week we will circle back to look at **verses 8-11** as a bookend for the section and what it means to live by faith.

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, is there anyone who can recite the week's memory verse?

Read **Philippians 3:1-11**. What impacted you the most from this Scripture or from Sunday's message? _____

Paul had every reason to have confidence in the flesh, but he chose not to. In what ways do you tend to put your confidence in the flesh (i.e. workplace, parenting, relationships with others, etc.)? _____

In the sermon notes, read under the section "Accidental Pharisees," starting with Number 1 and through the Larry Osborne quote. In what ways do you tend to put confidence in your flesh when it comes to your faith? In other words, what "badges" do you wear or expect others to wear as proof that they are "real disciples"? _____

What has the "fruit" been of that attitude, whether you actually express it out loud or you keep it hidden inside? Do certain people avoid you, or feel unable to live up to you? Do you get bitter or frustrated with people? Do you complain to God? _____

On Sunday Pastor Jobey shared the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Read **Luke 18:9-14**. Do you see yourself more like the Pharisee or the Tax Collector? _____

Who do you secretly "thank God that you are not like?" What makes us feel holier than others? See **Isaiah 64:6**. _____

Paul counted all his worldly gains as loss. Why? In our achievement driven culture what would this look like in your life if you actually counted all your worldly gains as loss? _____

Read **Matthew 16:24-26**. Spend some time during group to confess and pray about the things that prevent you from taking up your cross daily.



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Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.



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Philippians 2:19-30 // September 4, 2016

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025