

5 ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GOD AND WHY THEY ARE WRONG

SESSION 2: "I NEED TO WORK HARDER TO MAKE GOD HAPPY"



IN THIS SESSION

We will work through the common assumption that people must work harder to earn God's approval and offer some biblically-based suggestions on how that paradigm might be shifted.



KEY PASSAGES

- **John 14:15** ¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
- **Matthew 22:34-40** ³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."



DISCUSS

- In what areas of life are we generally taught the axiom, "if you work hard enough, you can be whatever you want?" How does this tend to transfer over to our perception of God and how he interacts with us?
- The Session maintained that behavior never produces love but love always changes behavior. How have you found this to be true in your own life and experiences? Consider offering some specific examples, both negative and positive, as you further engage in this conversation with others.
- What might change in your life and the way you relate with God if you truly believed that, as Jeff said, "what God wants me to do is to love him and be loved by him?" With the person or group you are taking this Study, process through how the answer to that question impacts, 1) the way you interact with God, 2) the way you interact with people around you, and 3) how God *wants* to interact with you. What could change in your life starting today if you genuinely received God's love with this new mindset?



PRAY

- Ask God to reveal areas in your life where you tend to be "legalistic" (i.e. adhere to rules rather than pursue a loving relationship) and invite his power to help you shift your paradigm. Pray for wisdom to identify moments in life where God would want you to see his love for you at work and respond in thanksgiving and gratitude. Consider spending a few moments thanking God for his faithfulness in your life and reflecting on his goodness in the relationship he has offered you because of Jesus.