

5 ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GOD AND WHY THEY ARE WRONG

SESSION 5: "GOD IS WAITING FOR ME TO MESS UP"



IN THIS SESSION

This Session will address the common assumption that bad things happen in life because God sees us as inherently bad. In seeking to form a biblical worldview, we will examine John 3:17—the follow up to one of the best known verses in the Bible—as a means to discover God’s altogether different way of seeing us.



KEY PASSAGES

- **John 3:16-17** ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
- **Romans 1:16** ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.



DISCUSS

- In Chapter 4 of Jeff’s book *5 Assumptions About God*, he says:
“This [assumption] sets up what I call a ‘contractual relationship’ with God. Our contract reads something like this: If I do good things for God (I keep the rules), God is obligated to do good things for me (I won’t lose my job, health, or hair). On the flip side, if I do bad things (I fail to keep the rules), bad things will happen to me (I’ll lose my job, health, and hair).”
How are we conditioned in our culture to view any relationship as contractual? In other words, what aspects of our normal life routines feed the contractual relationship mentality? In what ways do these mundane repetitions subconsciously influence the way we view God?
- The Session claimed the assumption, “God is waiting for me to mess up,” produces a mentality of *legalism*, where we look to uncover the right rules and follow them meticulously. Why do you think this is an accurate statement? Discuss some areas in your own life where you tend to prefer rules over relationship, especially as it pertains to how you view God.
- What needs to occur to overcome a false assumption based in legalism, earning and rule-following? In other words, what is the antidote to the disease of seeing things this way? How can your life look different if you were genuinely able to receive the truth that “God is a loving god who I can trust and has my best interests in mind?”



PRAY

- Read Romans 8:31-39 and list the ways you see God being faithful to the initial statement made in v. 31: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” With each point on your list, respond to God’s word and thank him for his commitment to love you

and have your best interests in mind. Ask him to work this truth more deeply in your life and to allow it the freedom to change the way you interact with the Bible and with others.