

WRONG RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness – anything that meets God's standards

Jesus set THE standard that we all must emulate

Jesus did **EXACTLY** what God the Father commanded - John 14:31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do EXACTLY what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave

Jesus connection to the Father was due to His reverence - Heb 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and **HE WAS HEARD BECAUSE OF HIS REVERENT SUBMISSION.**

No one, other than Christ, that has or will, live is righteous –

Ecc 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

Rom 3:10-12 - 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, NOT EVEN ONE"; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

The only true righteousness for man is a "credited" righteous due to our belief in Christ - Rom 4:1-6-What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? 2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about — but not before God. 3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was CREDITED TO HIM as righteousness." 4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, **his FAITH IS CREDITED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.** 6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works

Where most "wrong-righteousness" exists is in disputable matters

Rom 14:1-8 - Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. 2 One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Disputable - diakrisis (dee-ak'-ree-sis) judicial estimation:

Rom 14:13-18 - 13 Therefore let us **STOP PASSING JUDGMENT ON ONE ANOTHER.** Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. 14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. 15 If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. 16 Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, **but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,** 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

Wrong-righteousness not only affects our Christian Walk, it defects it

Missing opportunities to minister because of wrong-righteousness - Matt 9:10-13 - 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "**Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?**" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: '**DESIRE MERCY, NOT SACRIFICE.**' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

If we base how we treat others on the wrong-righteousness, it WILL affect how we are treated - Matt 7:1-5 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the SAME WAY you judge others, YOU WILL be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 **YOU HYPOCRITE,** first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Wrong-righteousness will “seem” effective, while in reality it’s worthless -Col 2:20-23 - 20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but **THEY LACK ANY VALUE IN RESTRAINING SENSUAL INDULGENCE**.

*** The determining factor between wrong-righteousness & True righteousness is “PURPOSE Based on”**

Wrong-righteousness purpose is to get notice by man unlike “true righteousness” which glorifies God -Matt 6:1-4 - “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, **TO BE SEEN BY THEM**. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, **DO NOT LET YOUR LEFT HAND KNOW WHAT YOUR RIGHT HAND IS DOING**, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Wrong-righteousness prayers are ineffective because their purpose is to impress others, while “true righteousness” just wants to be heard by God - Matt 6:5-6 - 5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners **TO BE SEEN BY MEN**. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

If how we pray is based on wrong-righteousness it also distorts our prayers - Matt 6:7-8 - 7 And when you pray, do not keep on **BABBLING LIKE PAGANS**, for **THEY THINK THEY WILL BE HEARD** because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

When you fast with wrong-righteous purpose, to show off to men, then you’re just starving yourself because the purpose of fasting is to be between you and God - Matt 6:16-18 - 16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces **TO SHOW MEN THEY ARE FASTING**. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Wrong-righteousness distorts your value system while true righteousness teaches true value - Matt 6:19-21 -19 “**Do not store up for yourselves TREASURES ON EARTH**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But **STORE UP for yourselves TREASURES IN HEAVEN**, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

***This will include our values, our politics, our desired policies...anything self-valued and not God-valued**

Wrong-righteousness separates us from the body -Matt 18:15-17 - 15 “If your brother sins against you, **GO AND SHOW HIM HIS FAULT**, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Wrong-righteousness is quick to punish others for their wrong without recognizing our own wrongs - John 8:3-11 - 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “**IF ANY ONE OF YOU IS WITHOUT SIN, LET HIM BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER.**” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one **condemned you?**” 11 “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Wrong-righteousness will put other rules before God - Matt 15:1-9 - Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, 2 “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don’t wash their hands before they eat!” 3 Jesus replied, “And **WHY DO YOU BREAK THE COMMAND OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION?** 4 For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ 5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever help you might

otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus **you NULLIFY THE WORD OF GOD** for the **SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION**. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 **"These people HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, but their HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME.** 9 **They WORSHIP ME IN VAIN;** their teachings are but rules taught by men."

Woes to the self-righteous

Pharisees (separated ones) – largest and most influential sect. Extreme legalism, little interest in politics, believed in immortality, resurrection, spirits, and angels.

Sadducees (may mean righteous ones) - upper-class minority. External legalism, Major concerns with Politics, denied immortality, resurrection, spirits, and angels.

Beware; the teachings from those that are of wrong-righteousness are dangerous

Matt 16:5-6 - 5 When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. 6 **"Be careful,"** Jesus said to them. **"Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."**

Matt 16:12 Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against **the teaching** of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Self-righteousness is a dangerous frame of mind and way of life that tries to display righteousness on the outside while exists emptiness on the inside - Mark 12:38-40 - 38 As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. **They like** to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, 39 and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 40 **THEY DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES and for a show make lengthy prayers.** Such men **WILL BE PUNISHED MOST SEVERELY.**"

- ✓ Must be noticed.
- ✓ Must be acknowledged.
- ✓ Expects to get special treatment.
- ✓ Expects to be honored.
- ✓ They will hurt others (especially the weak) to advance themselves.
- ✓ Their religion is about them, not God.

Self-Serving - Matt 23:13 **"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,** you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. **You yourselves DO NOT ENTER,** nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

Being too busy with people being in awe of your knowledge, (knowledge that is usually wrong and misleading) you still keep it from others instead of sharing it.

Hurt others to build self - Matt 23:14- **Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,** you hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. **Therefore you WILL BE PUNISHED MORE SEVERELY.**

Making a show of your ministry at others expense.

Must have followers - Matt 23:15 **"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,** you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much **a son of hell as you are.**

You go (noticeably) way out and overboard for a (false) ministry and those you train are doomed for Hell.

Defines what is "meaningful" in Spite of what God says - Matt 23:16-22 -16 **"Woe to you, blind guides! YOU SAY,** 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' 17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? 18 **YOU ALSO SAY,** 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' 19 **YOU BLIND MEN! WHICH IS GREATER:** the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20 Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21 And he who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

You are wrong on what is really sacred and you teach those wrong assumptions to others misleading them.

You act with no (or wrong) purpose, picking just SOME of what God says - Matt 23:23-24 -23 **"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,** you hypocrites! **You give a tenth** of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But **you have neglected** the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. **You should have PRACTICED THE LATTER, WITHOUT NEGLECTING THE FORMER.** 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

You make sure to display SOME "religious" action but your heart and purpose are wrong.

You only work on what is seen, not what is on the inside - Matt 23:25-26 - 25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

You spend all of your time on what is seen on the outside. You want to "look" righteous but it's not what you really "are".

You will fight to make sure you "look" good and right while "being" wrong - Matt 23:27-28 -27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Even when you are truly messed up you want to give the impression that you are righteous.

"YOUR" values and history trumps God - Matt 23:29-32 - 29 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. 30 And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers!

You have no problem pointing out those who do wrong in the past while in different ways you are making the same bad decisions.

All of this creates a very serious question for those that participate- Matt 23:33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers!
HOW WILL YOU ESCAPE BEING CONDEMNED TO HELL?

How to avoid Wrong righteousness

Reverence must exist in every aspect of our lives

We must live displaying; it's all dependent on God - Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with FEAR and TREMBLING, 13 for IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU to will and to act **ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PURPOSE**.

We must live knowing we will have to answer to God - Heb 12:28-29 - 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God ACCEPTABLY with REVERENCE and AWE, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

Take self out of the equation -Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **DO NOTHING** out of **SELFISH AMBITION** or **VAIN CONCEIT**, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

It's important to know what we are to really have a true relationship with God - Luke 18:9-14 - 9 **TO SOME WHO WERE CONFIDENT OF THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LOOKED DOWN ON EVERYBODY ELSE**, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLLED, and he who **HUMBLES HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED**."

***The self-righteous will fail to grow in true Righteousness because they think they are already there.**

Our judgments must be filtered through God in order to be effective - John 7:24 Stop judging by MERE APPEARANCES, and make a right judgment."

Like Jesus, make all Judgments in line with God, not self -John 5:30 BY MYSELF I can do nothing; I JUDGE ONLY as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Realize our righteousness must come from God because He is and created "righteousness" and He has the first and the final say - 1 Cor 4:3-5 - 3 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. 4 My conscience is clear, BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE ME INNOCENT. IT IS THE LORD WHO JUDGES ME. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

- **Do Not be misled by human judgement**
- **Do Not be misled by your own self-righteous views**

- **Do Not be misled by how you feel about it**
- **EVERYTHING MUST be filtered by God**

We must examine ourselves using God as the standard - 2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?

Don't be misled into thinking because men approve it that God approves it - Luke 16:14-15 - 14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15 He said to them, "You are the ones who **JUSTIFY YOURSELVES** in the **EYES OF MEN**, but **GOD KNOWS YOUR HEARTS. WHAT IS HIGHLY VALUED AMONG MEN IS DETESTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT.**

To avoid wrong-righteousness and gain true righteousness consider everything that is not from God rubbish -Phil 3:4-11 - 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but **THAT WHICH IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST — THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES FROM GOD AND IS BY FAITH.** 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Realize when it's too much -Eccl 7:16 Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise — why destroy yourself?

Wrong-righteousness is a form of stubbornness and we know what that did to the Israelites in the desert - Heb 3:7-11 - 7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

When it comes down to it, when we do show righteousness, we must show Christ, never self - 2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **IN HIM** we might become the righteousness of God.

1. What was the main reason God the Father heard Jesus prayers while He was on earth?
2. Name all the righteous men throughout history.
3. Define “disputable matters” -
4. Why are disputable matters a major source of wrong righteousness?
5. What does Jesus mean in Matt 9:13v when he says “I desire Mercy, not sacrifice”?
6. What is the only thing that make good deeds righteous?
7. Name some things we can do wrong in prayer to make them ineffective.
8. Give an example of a Treasure on earth vs a treasure in Heaven.

9. Did Jesus let the adulterous woman go because she was innocent?
10. What is the common way way worships God in vain?
11. What does it mean to live in Reverence?
12. Explain what Selfish ambition and Vain conceit is talking about.
13. What is the main element in Jesus judgement that we all should have in ours?
14. Why is it so important for me to consider thing that I value as worthless?