

Longing for Righteousness

Matthew 5:6

Gospel righteousness exceeds religious righteousness because...

► It shines _____

► It goes _____

► It tastes _____

► It comes from _____

Application Questions

Note: These questions are recommendations. You don't need to answer all of them and you may include some of your own questions.

1. When you were fourteen years old, what was your attitude toward and involvement in "religion"?
2. Read Matthew 5:6 & 20. "One way that Gospel righteousness surpasses religious self-righteousness is that it shines brighter" (See Mt.5:13-16). What are the implications of this for our life together as followers of Jesus?
3. "Gospel righteousness goes deeper than religious self-righteousness" (See Mt.5:21-22, 27-28, 38-42, 43-45). How does this apply practically to you as you seek to live as a subject of Jesus' kingdom?
4. "Gospel righteousness tastes sweeter than religious self-righteousness because it brings us into a sure and certain relationship with God as our loving Father" (See Mt.6:25-34). How does that apply to specific situations in your life right now?
5. "Gospel righteousness comes from above" (See Mt.5:17). Contrast how Gospel righteousness is obtained as opposed to religious self-righteousness.
6. What new or fresh insight have you received from the sermon and/or discussion? Why is it important to you? How does God want you to respond? Pray for one another as we seek to live out what we have learned.

Suggested prayer requests:

- Pray that we'd grow in the areas discussed above. Try to be specific.
- Pray that we'd build each other up in the Gospel; that we'd grow in humble, genuine holiness; and that Christ would be glorified.
- Pray we'd have a greater love for our neighbors, that we'd have opportunities and the courage to share the Gospel, and that they'd find rest in Christ and follow him.
- Pray for a determination to serve each other especially in times of need.
- Pray that we'd grow in our desire to worship God consistently with our community on Sunday mornings and throughout our lives.
- Pray our children would love God and others and that he'd use us to help them.
- Pray that God would raise more leaders in your Crowded House and that your Crowded House would mature to the point of starting an additional Crowded House.
- Pray for courage, selflessness, and wisdom in this.
- Pray that we would be so overwhelmed by God's sacrificial generosity toward us that we would also be sacrificially generous.