

Righteousness is a right relationship with God. In your own words, what does it mean to you that Jesus made the sacrifice so we can be righteous?



"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:17-21

How did one man and one sin result in "condemnation for all men"? (See Gen. 3)

How was Jesus obedient?

Take a few moments to thank God for Jesus bringing us righteousness.

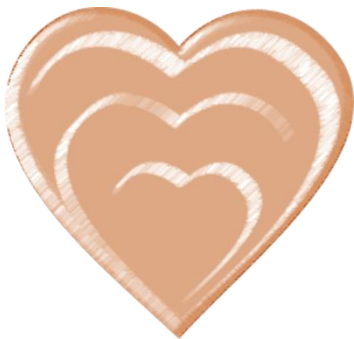
“And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

Deuteronomy 6:25

Refresh yourself with God’s 10 Commandments by reading them in Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

Which one of these is hardest for you? Why?

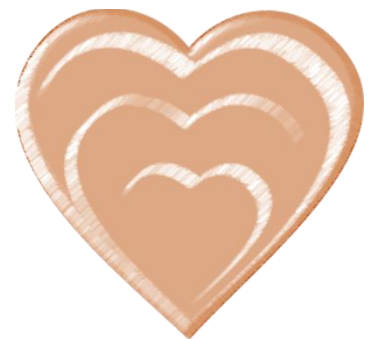
How can you work on these areas?



“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “Is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:28-31



In the book of James, we read that faith without deeds is useless. Do you agree with this? Why?

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?”
James 2:14

The Zondervan NIV Study Bible explains these verses in this way:
“James is not saying that a person is saved by works and not by genuine faith. Rather, he is saying, to use Martin Luther’s words, that people are justified (declared righteous before God) by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone. Genuine faith will produce good deeds, but only faith in Christ saves.”

“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
James 2:15-17

How can we show that our faith is not alone?
(What actions show our faith to the world even without words?)

Have you ever experienced being on the receiving end of the ‘acts’ of faith? How did you see God in those moments?

Why do you think it is important to ‘show’ our faith?

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”
James 2:18

How do faith filled actions show that we have a right relationship with God (or righteousness)?

How can living our life mindful of doing the things God commands us to do and refraining from the things God tells us to stay away from draw us into a closer relationship with God?

“Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?”

James 3:21

Has there been a time when you had an opportunity to show your faith in God and instead you choose to keep it to yourself? If so briefly explain it.

“You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.”

James 3:22

How might the situation have been different?

“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,’ and he was called God’s friend.”

James 3:23

Our God is the God of second chances. How can our actions of forgiveness help explain the forgiveness of God to others?

Hunger and thirst for righteousness and begin to see God working in you and through you! You will never be the same!!

“You see that a person is justified (declared righteous) by what he does and not by faith alone.”

James 3:24
