



DATE September 3, 2017

SPEAKER David Smith

TITLE Do Rules Matter?

SERIES Jesus invites us to follow him, and His invitation is for everyone. Following Jesus isn't just obeying a set of rules; His way is much better than that. Learn what it means to "walk this way," and how we can experience change and freedom that will be evident to the world.

1. Looking back on your early Christian "walk", how were the Old Covenant and New Covenant distinctions taught to you? Based on your early experience, what kind of doctrinal foundation was your early Christian life built upon?
2. At the top of his sermon Pastor David said, "If you are following Jesus and you don't feel free, you are doing something wrong!" How does that statement make you feel?
3. Throughout Galatians Chapter 5, Paul is ultimately saying that the Old Covenant rules are there to help us love one another. Read 1 John 4:12 and Eph. 5:1 to further discuss how the New Covenant enables us to love as God loves.
4. We really saw this love being demonstrated during Hurricane Harvey. Recall some of the stories showing the love of God in action. How do we keep this kind of love from turning back into duty and Old Covenant?
5. Pastor David talked about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the rules against murder, adultery, and promises. Read Matthew 5:38-48 and Matthew 6:1-4 and discuss what Jesus says about retaliation (or revenge), loving your neighbor, and giving to the needy. What are some instructions from Jesus that you need to focus on in the next week or month?
6. Pastor David made it clear that rules still matter, but not for making ourselves right with God. Rules matter because when we are right with God through Jesus we want to express our love to God and all His people with the correct motivations. Realizing this, what has changed in your own thoughts about your relationship between you, God and others?
7. Pastor David gave us three simple words to help explain why God's rules are important: SIN RUINS LOVE. How does sin ruin our love for God and others?
8. When Pastor David said, "God is pleased with me" what thoughts went through your mind?