

NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

No Perfect People Allowed — Week 4 — Impossible

Read Matthew 5:17-20. It is impossible for us to fulfill the prophets, follow the law, keep all the commandments and be better than the Pharisees, but Jesus did all this and more. Jesus did everything we could not do so that we could have everything we needed most. While we were dead in our sin, God sent His one and only Son to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might abundantly live now and for eternity. We do not claim our inheritance by our goodness but by believing and receiving His free gift of eternal life.

- Why do many think Christianity is about following rules? How can that mentality keep your family and friends from becoming Christ followers?
- Read Galatians 3:24-25 and Colossians 2:14-17. Why are Christians no longer bound by the Old Testament law?
- “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4-6). Since it is obvious that we are no longer controlled by the law, what should a believer’s approach to reading and understanding the Old Testament be?
- Read Galatians 2:15-16. Religion is based on rules. Jesus reserved His harshest words for religious people (Matthew 23:13-15). What do you think that says about His desire for you to follow a bunch of rules?
- Where does this leave you? If you are not to follow a set of rules, what are you supposed to follow (Matthew 22:34-40, Romans 13:8-10)?

Because Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the law, we now have total access to God. We have been made right, not through anything we have done, but through Jesus. We can now “approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). This week ask yourself this question often, “what is my motivation for doing this?” Because of what Jesus has done, we are no longer obligated to obey, we get to follow Him because He loves us and we love Him.