



Part 2: When I become less legalistic and value being merciful over being right.

INTRODUCTION

Everyone wants to see growth. There are ways to measure growth in children's development, business, etc. But how do we know when you grow spiritually? Discipleship (growing as Christ's follower) is often a contentious issue in the church. What is the true measure of discipleship? Some Christians end up criticizing other Christians for not being 'deep' enough or committed enough to be 'real' Christians. There is apparently a certain subset of Christian who have maturity figured out, and the rest of us, well, not so much. What if what we call spiritual maturity...isn't? How then do we know when we grow?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with your group what you have seen growing in your life (could be physical, emotional, or spiritual).
2. Read Luke 6:1-11.
 - A. Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus? What did Jesus do? What did the Pharisees wanted to do with Jesus as a result? (cf. Matt 12:13; Mark 3:6)
 - B. The Pharisees in Jesus time dedicated themselves to following God wholeheartedly but ended up being the archenemies of God unintentionally. How do you think that could happen?
3. How can we "accidentally" be like the Pharisees?
4. Well-meaning Christians are often driven by fear that showing too much mercy can lead to compromise and halfhearted obedience. Do you agree or disagree with this? Why or why not?
5. We tend to treat certain sins as less deserving of mercy than others. Why do you think that is? Which ones do you have the hardest time offering mercy to?
6. Discuss how individually and as a group you can learn to be less legalistic and more merciful towards others.

MOVING FORWARD

There's nothing wrong with putting spiritual guardrails to protect yourself but there's everything wrong with putting those guardrails on others..

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' Matthew 9:13 (NIV)