

God's Plan A, Our Plan B

Part 3 – Looking Good

Intro/Review

Our culture: we decide what is “good” for ourselves.

Now armed with self-determination, we tend to relate to God through RULES.

Spirit doesn't come through law

You will not be perfected/grow by flesh/works

(Galatians 3:2-3)

We are transformed by replacing our judgement-our tendency & will to make our own determinations – to decide for ourselves

Following the Rules & Looking Good

Rules can make us seem good/right w/God

Colossians 2:20-23

appearance of wisdom but are worthless

Matthew 23:23-28

23 – neglect justice (provide, not judge)

25 – a clean outside

27 – whitewashed-beautiful appearance

28 – appear righteous

full of hypocrisy

Trying to look good, outward conformity, following rules, can look like wisdom but is not life

James 3:13-18 Good behavior comes *out of* wisdom, not other way around.

earthly wisdom –selfish, jealousy

wisdom from above-peace, gentle, mercy – no hypocrisy

Application

The importance of not trying to hide the ugly.

Hypocrisy is when we try to appear what we are not.

Act different but not different

We want to look good

filter/cover up the ugly

show the best parts, hide the rest

NO!!!

Appearance is worthless

outward following is not wisdom but seems like it.

Clean inside-draw near Christ

admit your ugly (confess:God, others)

accept His washing-His sacrifice-and outside will be clean

I will not “ACT” like Jesus.

I will BE like Jesus-changed, transformed

(Still in progress, not all pretty yet, but His)

NEXT WEEK: HOW???????