

# ABOVE THE LAW

## “Righteous through Relationship”

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Psalms 15<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? <sup>2</sup> He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous

Matthew 13<sup>49</sup> That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous,

Righteous: right standing, innocence before God

Romans 3<sup>10</sup> As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. <sup>11</sup> No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

Romans 3<sup>21</sup> But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Believing vs. Behaving

(Galatians 2:16-3:14, pg 701 in SCC Bibles)

- I can’t be righteous through rules
- Only a relationship with Christ will make me righteous
- Trying to earn righteousness will actually get in the way of my relationship with God
- Christ living in me is the key to righteous actions
- I must choose to live by the power of the Spirit
- I need to stop relying on self-effort to be right with God and continue trusting in Christ

*Going Deeper...*

For discussion or personal study

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“Righteous through Relationship” – 1 of 5

## Questions

1. What’s the worst crime I’ve ever committed? Did I get caught? Did the government give me grace?
2. How would I define righteousness to someone who has never heard the word?
3. How does it make me feel to know that the Bible says no one is good? Why?
4. Why do we tend to relate and attempt to grow our relationship with God through behavior rather than belief? How can this actually get in the way?
5. How would I describe living in the Spirit? How is it the key to righteous living?

## Scripture

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- According to this passage, how are we made right with God?
- What place do righteous actions (good works) have in this?
- How should this make us feel?

## Application

- Am I right with God? Based on what?
- In what areas of my life do I need to stop relying on self-effort and rely on the Spirit? How will I do that?