

I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT...

God didn't listen
I don't feel God

How could God let this happen?
I just want to have fun

There is too much suffering
I don't understand

JANUARY 2018
Emmanuel Reformed Church

Jan 14, 2017

Killjoy God

Romans
3:20-26

Many believe God to be a “____-____ ____.”

Rules of _____ vs. Life of _____

You will be _____ and lose _____ if you seek God through religion.



Religion is the _____
Christ is the _____

Why does God give so many laws and rules?

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW IS TO SHOW YOU YOUR NEED OF A _____.

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. Rom 3:20

BEING RIGHT WITH GOD COMES BY _____ IN _____ ALONE.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:22

THE USE OF THE LAW TODAY IS TO _____ YOUR _____.

Combine the spiritual with the religious

- Strengthen your _____
- Protect you from _____
- Guide your _____



While groups are not officially starting until next week, here are questions you can use personally, or in a group.

Getting started...

Are you more of a rule-follower or a rule-breaker?

Start thinking...

Did you grow up hearing about a lot of rules in church? How do you think this shaped your view of God?

Read Romans 3:20. What are some ways we expect people to follow the law to earn righteousness today?

Start sharing...

Do you feel like your rule following makes you close to God, or being close to God through Christ makes you want to know God's ways better?

Can you think of a time when you were forgiven for something you never thought you would be forgive for? How did you feel?

Throughout the Bible it is clear that God is most interested in the internal (hearts and souls), not the external (looks and behavior). Are there ways you are still more concerned with the externals?

Start doing...

Memorize Romans 3:22 this week. When you start to feel fear and shame, fight back with the truth of Christ and the loving grace of God.

Is there someone who you have held to the standard of following rules and laws, instead of love and grace? How can you reach out to them with the love and grace of God this week?

