



free

FREE, Part 4: Lawless

INTRODUCTION

All religions point to three things: *you ought to . . . you don't . . . you're toast*. Religion is all about following the rules, but Jesus had something different in mind. He calls us to follow him, not the teachings of the church—follow first and obey later.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Growing up, were you a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? How did your reaction to rules affect your relationships with your parents and siblings?
2. Did your family go to church when you were growing up? Was the experience more about following Jesus or obeying rules? How has that influenced your current view of church?
3. What do you find challenging about the idea that Jesus is more interested in you following him than he is in you obeying rules?
4. Read Galatians 5:17. How have you experienced this battle between flesh and Spirit in your own life?
5. Does living free by following Jesus seem attainable? What can this group do to help you begin to approach your relationship with God from the perspective of following instead of obeying rules?

MOVING FORWARD

The Christian life is not a life of imitation. It's a life of impartation—Jesus' life in you. At the cross, the power of sin was broken. You have been set free. *"For we have died and Jesus is alive in us."* Jesus wants to live his life through you as you keep in step with his Spirit in you.

Accept your new identity. *Embrace* this new approach by asking God to bear fruit through you as you keep in step with his Spirit in you. *Refuse* to interact with God on the basis of rules. That's not the kind of relationship with you that he desires.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5