



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. If your family went to church when you were growing up, was the experience more about obeying rules or following Jesus? How has that influenced your current view of faith?
3. During the message, Andy said, *“Approaching God through the law is our default. But it eventually leads to defeat.”* How have you seen that played out in your own spiritual journey?
4. Galatians 5:22–23 says the fruit of the Spirit is “love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Which items on the “fruit list” are usually not reflected in your daily life? What does that cost you?
5. Talk about how your life might be different if you learned to remain in Christ and invite the Spirit to produce fruit through you.
6. What will you do this week to *accept* your new identity, *embrace* this new approach of asking God to bear fruit through you as you keep in step with his Spirit, and *refuse* to interact with God based on rules? What can this group do to support you?

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.

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