

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Condemnation of the Moralist

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Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: The moral and immoral will be judged according to their deeds. No one escapes.

Read Romans 2

1. Paul warns that when we pass judgment on others, we actually condemn ourselves because we can be guilty of the same sins (v 1). Why do you think it's often easier to notice sin in others than in ourselves? In what subtle ways can judgment of others become a way to avoid examining our own hearts? How does Scripture say we should handle helping others identify sin in their lives (Matthew 7:3-5; 18:15-17)?
2. Paul reminds us that God's patience and kindness are not approval of sin, but an invitation to change (v 4). How have you experienced God's patience in your own life? Why do you think it's easy to confuse God's patience with permission to stay the same?
3. Paul warns that an unrepentant heart stores up judgment rather than transformation (v 5). What are some characteristics of a "stubborn" or resistant heart? Are there areas where you feel God nudging you to respond, but you've been slow to act? What helps soften your heart when you sense



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conviction from the Holy Spirit?

4. The Jewish people likely viewed themselves as favored by God because of their origins. However, what Paul is conveying is that God does not show partiality based on lineage or ethnicity (vv 6-11). Are there subtle ways we might rely on spiritual heritage (family faith, years in church, knowledge of Scripture) instead of personal obedience and humility? Who might God be inviting you to see differently this week in light of His impartial love?
5. Paul emphasizes that hearing the law does not make someone righteous—obedience does (v 13). It is a subtle but dangerous temptation to believe that because we agree with a truth, attend a study on it, or can articulate it clearly, we have actually integrated it into our lives. In your own spiritual journey, where have you noticed a "knowledge/action gap" (a place where your theology is sound but your practice is lagging)? Why is it so easy to mistake information about God for an intimate, obedient relationship with Him?
6. Scripture is an instructor to help us discern what is acceptable to God (vv 18-20). What rhythms or habits do you have for engaging with Scripture right now? What tends to help or hinder consistency? When life feels busy or overwhelming, what usually gets crowded out first: time in God's Word or something else? Why do you think that is?
7. Paul references an Old Testament passage (Ezekiel 36:20-22) that supports his assertion that non-believers will form their opinion about God based on the behavior of His followers (v 24). When people observe your reactions to stress, your integrity in business, or the way you treat others, are you sanctifying or profaning the name of God to others? Are there any ways your current lifestyle might be creating a barrier for someone else's faith?
8. Faith in Jesus is not something that is accomplished through external rites, but is rather a disposition of the heart (vv 28-29). Sometimes our faith can become ritualistic. How do you build good spiritual habits or rhythms that flow from a soft heart? What tends to soften your heart toward God when



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your faith feels dry or routine, and what helps re-center your practices on relationship rather than obligation?



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