

# How to be a Perfect Christian

## Week 1: So You Want to be Perfect?

### TALK IT OVER

#### KEY SCRIPTURES

Galatians 2:16-17

Galatians 5:13-14

**Start talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- A lot of times, people think “church” is all about keeping the rules. What’s the craziest “rule” (as in, a man-made, let’s-try-to-make-ourselves-holy kind of rule) that you’ve encountered—either something that someone in the church thought they were supposed to be doing or a misconception someone outside the church had?

**Start thinking.** Ask some questions to get your group looking at the Word.

- Read Galatians 2:16-17. How would you explain verse 16 to a non-Christian friend, particularly one with high moral standards? Is salvation about “being good”?
- Read Galatians 5:13-14. What are we “called to be free” from? What are we called to use our freedom for? How do we misuse our freedom?

**Start sharing.** Choose some questions to create openness.

- We’ve probably all had experiences being hurt by Christians, and it’s especially ironic when it’s by someone who probably considers themselves to be a “perfect Christian.” Without naming names or pointing fingers, how did that experience leave you feeling toward Christians? How can we avoid hurting others like that?
- Legalism (more rules keep me safe and God happy) and Licentiousness (God will forgive me, so let’s have fun!) are on either end of the spectrum of how we usually approach being a “perfect Christian.” How have you encountered either one in the church? In your day to day life? Which side are you more prone to fall to?
- What’s wrong with legalism? Why isn’t it a healthy approach to following Jesus?
- What’s wrong with the other end of the spectrum and saying, “nobody’s perfect, so why try?”
- How have you seen Christian freedom, like Galatians 5 talks about, abused?

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

Jesus, You set us free from following the rules to save ourselves. Thank You for the free gift of grace and the salvation that we have through faith alone in You. Help us not to lose sight of the immensity of that gift or to devalue it, but help us everyday to remember our need for You and to seek Your forgiveness in our lives. Help us to live so that all that we do brings You glory and blesses others. Amen.

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Take off the mask. If you’re prone to pretending that you’re a “perfect Christian or hiding behind a façade to make it seem like you’ve got it all together, ask Jesus to help you start taking that wall down this week. Consider talking with a close Christian friend about your struggles and imperfections and lift each other up in prayer.

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Day 1:** Galatians 2:16-17

**Day 2:** Philippians 3:9

**Day 3:** Romans 3:19-28

**Day 4:** Romans 4:2

**Day 5:** 1 Peter 1:18-21

**Day 6:** Romans 6:1-2

**Day 7:** 1 Peter 2:16