



-- Robert Murray McCheyne – “Self-righteousness is the largest idol of the human heart—the idol which man loves most and God hates most.”

-- The world _____ the grace of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

-- It hates that God’s grace reveals our utter sinfulness.

-- It hates that God’s grace reveals our complete dependence upon Him.

Destructive Desire #2: Self-Justification

-- For the Pharisees, tithing was a major subject of self-justification (Luke 18:11-12).

-- The problem was not with the Pharisees’ giving, but with their _____.

-- The Pharisees’ great mistake was believing that their tithing was winning for them God’s kingdom.

Signs That We Seek Self-Justification

1.) We see it in our _____.

-- The root of unforgiveness is a reliance upon our own moral superiority.

2.) We see it in our _____ to sin.

-- Watch out for a spirit of moral superiority.

-- Watch out for a spirit of sin-justification or blame-shifting.

3.) We see it in the _____ we tell.

-- When we desire to justify ourselves, we often do or say whatever it takes to hide our faults.

-- The root cause of most lies is the pursuit of self-justification.

4.) We see it in our “_____” culture.

-- Our culture heralds the idea that feeling good about ourselves is among the highest of virtues.

-- This destructive thinking is rooted in the toxic soil of self-justification.

5.) We see it at the heart of _____ religion.

-- Josh McDowell in *Handbook of Today's Religions* – “All cults attach something to the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith.”

-- Self-righteousness is an utterly _____ hope.

-- It cannot pay what it promises (Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:20, 23).

-- Though it may appear to bring short-term benefits, the desire to justify ourselves ushers in an eternal curse.

What to Want (Part 2) –The Fullness of God's Grace

-- God's grace is the means by which we walk in His justice and love.

-- The justice and love to which Christ calls us is _____ without His power at work in us (John 15:5).

-- Walking in the love and justice of Christ is the *product* of salvation, not the *pathway* to it (Titus 3:4-5, 2 Corinthians 9:8).

-- God's love and justice toward us meet perfectly in _____.

-- The complete justice our sins demand meets the perfect love our lives lack only in the cross of Christ (Romans 3:25-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

-- Wanting the fullness of God's grace means wanting _____.

-- John 1:16-17, Colossians 2:9-10

Questions for Application

-- Which pleases you more—telling others about your good deeds, or telling them about Christ?

-- Which desire is greater, the desire to praise God or the desire to be praised by people?

-- When the best of beings is adored, the best of blessings are enjoyed.

-- Psalm 37:4 – “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.”