

# We are a gospel people

## Religion

Rules

"I obey; therefore, I'm accepted"

Motivation its based on fear and insecurity.

I obey God in order to get things from God.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself, since I believe that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

When I am criticised, I am furious or devastated, because it is critical that I think of myself as a "good person." Threats to that self-image must be destroyed at all costs.

My prayer life consists largely of petition, and it only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is control of the environment.

My self-view swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be proud and unsympathetic to failing people. If and when I am not living up to standards, I feel humble but not confident — I feel like a failure.

My Identity and self-worth are based mainly on how hard I work, or how moral I am — and so I must look down on those I perceive as lazy or immoral.

## Gospel

Relationship

"I'm accepted; therefore, I obey."

Motivation its based on grateful joy.

I obey God to get God - to delight in and resemble Him.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle, but I know all my punishment fell on Jesus and that while God may allow this for my training, He will exercise His Fatherly love within my trial.

When I am criticised, I struggle, but it is not essential for me to think of myself as a "good person" My identity is not built on my record or my performance but on God's love for me in Christ.

My prayer life consists of generous stretches of praise and adoration. My main purpose is fellowship with God.

My self-view is not based on my moral achievement. In Christ I am simul justus et peccator —simultaneously sinful and lost, yet accepted in Christ. I am so bad He had to die for me, and so loved that He was glad to die for me. This leads me to deep humility and confidence at the same time.

My identity and self-worth are centred on the one who died for me. I am saved by sheer grace, so I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Only by grace am I what I am.