

Centered Set Church

03 How Did We Get Here?

INTRODUCTION

If Jesus expelled the Temple Model from His movement, why do we have churches that prioritize law-keeping over loving others?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word “religion,” what comes to mind? Why?
2. What are some of the cultural consequences of people viewing Christians as judgmental and obsessed with rules instead of as a radically loving community?
3. Read Galatians 5:6 and 14. What is challenging about the idea that all of the law is fulfilled in the command to “love your neighbor as yourself”? What is freeing about that idea?
4. The history of the Church has many skeletons, which in hindsight, is so easy to see. It is difficult to notice the degradation while we are in it. Why do you think this is the case?
5. Name some pieces of evidence that there is a little bit of the Temple Model thinking in you.
6. Who is one person you need to start being for without demanding anything in return? What stands in the way of you loving that person?
7. What is one thing you can do this week to love the person you identified in the previous question? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Do your beliefs ever get in the way of your love? Do your views hinder you from loving someone? Most of us wrestle with that tension because we haven’t embraced the truth of the gospel: if Jesus died for us, he is for us. God’s unmerited love for us and for those around us must inform our consciences and shape our behaviors.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6b