

10. What does it mean to be “oriented” toward others?
11. Think about the various aspects of your life (family, work, church, in public, etc.) In what area of your life do you think you are oriented toward others? In what ways do you think you aren't? Explain.
12. Do you agree that pursuing God is the first step toward loving others? Why or why not? Does “pursuing God” always lead us to love others?
13. In what ways have you put laws above love (sacrificed relationship for the sake of rules)?
14. What steps can you take toward living by love instead of by law?

Other Scriptures: Luke 11:37-54, Romans 2:12-16, Romans 7:4-6, 13:8-10, Galatians 5:1-6, 6:1-5,



## Simple Faith

### Sermon Notes and Takehome

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

Simple things are not always \_\_\_\_\_.

### Mark 12:28-34

The Pharisees made a “\_\_\_\_\_” around the Law.

\_\_\_\_\_ awaken in us this desire to see how far over the line we can go without getting caught.

### The Problem with Legalism

1. Legalism can cause us to focus more on \_\_\_\_\_ than on God.
2. Legalism causes us to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Legalism creates \_\_\_\_\_.

## Overcoming Legalism

1. Pursue \_\_\_\_\_ above everything else.
2. The key to loving people is to always be \_\_\_\_\_ toward them.
3. Someone else's sin is not permission for me to act \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Never expect others to live up to \_\_\_\_\_, especially if I'm not willing to have a \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

Love is infinitely more powerful \_\_\_\_\_ than Law.

## Further Study and Reflection:

1. Would you say you're naturally a rule breaker or a rule follower?
2. What's good about rule breakers? Rule followers?
3. What are the dangers of being a rule breaker? Rule follower?

## Read Matthew 5:17-48.

4. Why do you think Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets?"
5. How is love the "fulfillment of the law?"

In verses 21-48, Jesus uses some examples to explain what He means? He uses the phrase, "You have heard it said...but I say..."

6. In each case, what is the difference between the stated Law and what Jesus commands?
7. How do Jesus' commands "surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees?"
8. What would you say is the difference between true righteousness and legalism? According to Jesus, what defines each?

In the message, Kory says that legalism is dangerous for three reasons:

- It can cause us to focus more on sin than on God.
  - It can cause us to miss the point.
  - It creates separation—an us vs. them mentality.
9. Can you think of some other dangers?