

Righteousness, No Compromise

Pursuing God's standard rather than tolerating "a little" sin

The Godly Man Course - Lesson 7 | Righteousness, No Compromise

"Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." 2 Timothy 2:22

FUNCTIONAL DEFINITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

The righteousness of God is a perfect reflection of God's person in the way He carries out His relationships with others.

A) Flee - and Pursue

- The goal is not merely to run away from youthful lusts. Scripture also commands us to pursue righteousness.
- Legalism can become preoccupied with what we are running from. Godly living deliberately moves toward God's righteous ways.
- A godly man measures right and wrong by God's standard, not by comparison with other people.

B) "Only a Little" Compromise

- A little compromise seems small when we focus on the large percentage of our obedience, but righteous living does not reserve a private portion for our own desires.
- Admitting that we are sinners is not an excuse to tolerate sin. 1 John 1:8-10 calls us to confess sin and receive God's faithful cleansing.
- If we decide a little anger is acceptable, we will never overcome the sin of anger. What we protect from repentance remains in place.

C) Righteousness in Relationships

- Righteousness is relational. Compromise causes us to fail in our duties toward God and other people.
- The chapter uses marriage as a concrete example: if a husband does not cherish his wife, she is not treated as special and the relationship suffers.
- Living a lie makes relationships superficial. Righteousness calls us to truthful, loving, faithful conduct.

D) "Good" People and God's Standard

- Human beings commonly compare one person with another. Righteousness compares man with God's standard.
- God sees not only outward behavior but the inward and private heart.
- The Christian's hope is not personal moral achievement. In Christ the believer is declared righteous, and then learns to live in line with that righteousness.

Personal Reflections

- Where are you tempted to excuse “a little” compromise?
- What would it mean to pursue righteousness positively rather than merely avoid certain sins?
- Which relationship most clearly reveals where your conduct does not yet match God’s standard?

Study Questions

1. We are told to flee from youthful lusts. What else are we told to do?

2. Why is Isaiah 6:1-12 useful in calling us back to righteous living?

3. What happens if we think a little anger is okay?

4. What can happen when a husband does not cherish his wife?

5. What is the difference between comparing “good” people with each other and measuring righteousness by God’s standard?
