



Gospel-Centered Life Class

Session II: Pretending and Performing

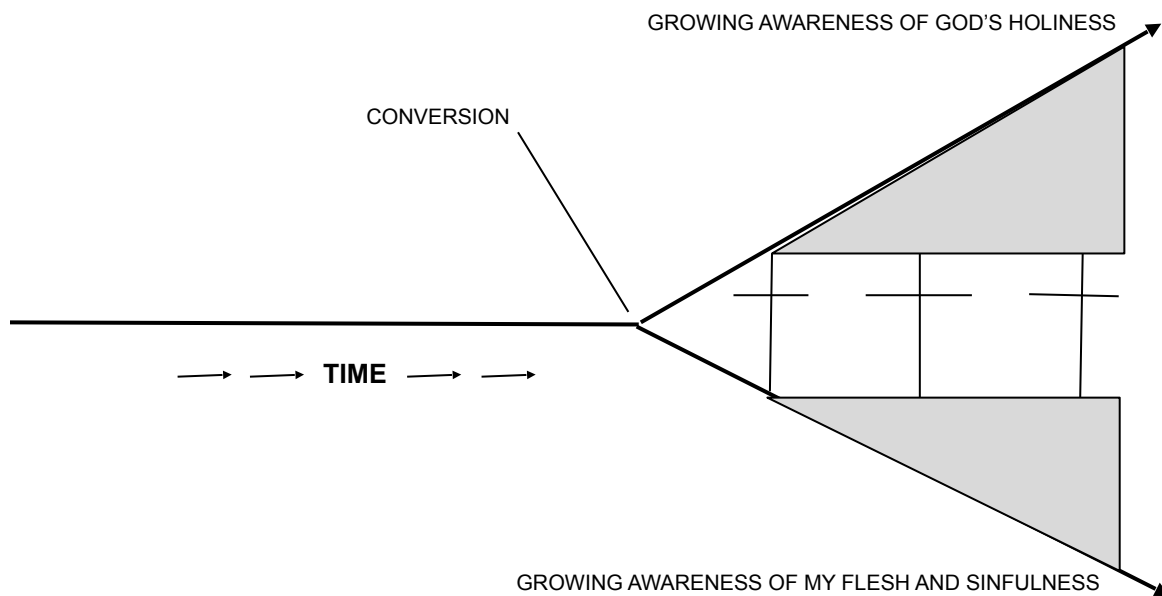
Bible Conversation

Luke 18:9-14 and Luke 18:18-23

Pretending and Performing

“Shrinking the Cross: Gospel Grid.”

Gospel Grid



When we are not anchored in the truth of the gospel, our love for Jesus and our experience of his goodness becomes very small. We end up “shrinking the cross” by either **pretending** or **performing**.

If we are not resting in what Christ did for us on the cross – paying for our sins and trusting in his righteousness – this growing awareness of our sin becomes a crushing weight.

We compensate by

- Dishonesty (“I’m not *that* bad.”)
- Comparison (“I’m not as bad as *those* people.”)
- Excuse making (“I’m not *really* that way.”)
- False righteousness (“Here are all the *good* things I’ve done.”)

All these forms have this in common. It is spinning the truth in our favor.

Growing in our awareness of God’s holiness is also challenging. It means coming face to face with God’s righteous commands and the glorious perfections of his character.

We compensate by

Here are some examples:

- JOB RIGHTEOUSNESS
- FAMILY RIGHTEOUSNESS
- THEOLOGICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS
- INTELLECTUAL RIGHTEOUSNESS
- SCHEDULE RIGHTEOUSNESS
- FLEXIBILITY RIGHTEOUSNESS
- MERCY RIGHTEOUSNESS
- LEGALIST RIGHTEOUSNESS
- FINANCIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS
- POLITICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS
- TOLERANCE RIGHTEOUSNESS

Exercise: Right and Wrong

We all have constructed certain rules or laws that we live by. These rules we make for ourselves are many times good things. They actually help us to love others. However, quickly they turn into more about making us “right” before God and then as a means to judge others based on their performance.

1. Give an example of a rule you have made for yourself and others that makes you feel good when it is kept, but irritated or depressed when it is broken.
2. How has your rule-keeping given you a sense of self-righteousness?
3. How does being mastered by this rule keep you from genuinely loving other people? Be specific.