

HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

JOHN REILLY | BLESSED WEEK 5

When the Fall happened, we lost our identity (Who am I?), purpose (Why am I here?), and our connection (Where do I belong?).

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”

Blaise Pascal

Sin is trying to meet an authentic hunger in an artificial way.

RIGHTEOUSNESS: Living in a right relationship with God

2 WAYS OF DEFINING RIGHTEOUSNESS:

- 01 Positional Righteousness:** When you give your life to Jesus, God puts you in a right position with Him. You cannot earn it; it's a freely given gift. (*2 Cor 5:21*)
- 100% positional righteousness produces a life that's only focused on getting to heaven and seeing Jesus as a safety net to avoid hell. This results in no real change to your daily life.
 - Intellectual agreement with facts. This is a shallow version of faith.

- 02 Practical Righteousness:** How we align ourselves with God in order to walk with Him. We are still sinners, but overtime through sanctification, we learn to walk in His ways.
- 100% practical righteousness is all about what work you can do on your own (oftentimes just following the rules you like or make up). When you fail, you feel immense guilt and weight because it's all on you. There is no relationship or connection to God in this version.
 - 1 Timothy 6:11*

If you approach righteousness with 100% of only one of these, then you've missed the bigger picture of Biblical righteousness.

TESTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

01 Can I see through my own self-righteousness?

- a. We all create our own self-righteousness by piecemealing things we've picked up along the way our belief system.
- b. *Romans 10:1-3*
- c. When was the last time you identified something in your life that you had falsely believed to be God's truth when it really wasn't?

02 Do I recognize the folly in cultural righteousness?

- a. Cultural righteousness is always a moving target, often swayed by the crowd.
- b. *Acts 19:32*
- c. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*
- d. Are you just hungering and thirsting to fit in?

03 Am I avoiding things that dull my spiritual appetite?

- a. We are filled with the things of this world that we have lost our appetite for God's truth.
- b. *Ephesians 4:17-20*
- c. Busyness, distraction, entertainment, etc. are filling us and dulling our appetite.
- d. How are you developing your spiritual appetite?

04 How does my hunger for righteousness fill the world around me?

- a. Every single follower of Jesus is called into missions.
- b. *1 Peter 3:15*
- c. When we live in righteousness, people will notice and see Jesus.

-Pray and ask for a hunger and thirst for God's righteousness.