

# I Want To Believe, But

## Week 2 – Killjoy God

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### REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

Last week we spoke about an On Demand God. God doesn't do exactly what I want Him to do.

We established that an On Demand God doesn't exist

**God does not exist to serve us. We exist to serve Him.**

Read: Isaiah 55:8-9

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There are so many people we know, that would like to believe, but there is some sort of barrier or ceiling that is stopping them from making the commitment towards God.

These people however aren't rejecting the one true God we believe in, but rather their own distorted view of who they think God is.

So often our view of Christianity is – **follow the rules**

**God is a Killjoy God!**

**Want to believe in God—Too many rules**

### THE BAD NEWS ABOUT RELIGION

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#### RELIGION FOCUSES ON THE EXTERNAL RATHER THAN THE INTERNAL

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.*

*Matthew 23:25-26*

There is a gap between God and us – Religion tries to close the gap with human effort.

Many people try and make religion all about do's and don'ts, rules and regulations. That is why the Lord said:

*...Don't follow [the example of the Pharisees]. For they don't practice what they teach. They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden*

*Matthew 23:4-5*

Any time you think Killjoy God and say I don't want that – remember – **Killjoy God does not exist!**

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## THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

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*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*

Romans 3:20-22

### 1. YOU CANNOT EARN GOD'S ACCEPTANCE BY OBEYING THE LAW

Religion says you please God by your works. Do good—Don't be bad.

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law . . .*

Romans 3:20

Why did God give the law in the first place? If no one can live up to it?

### 2. THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW IS TO SHOW YOU YOUR NEED OF A SAVIOUR

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law, through the law we become conscious of our sin*

Romans 3:20

Compared to others, you might think that you're not too bad. But compared to the standards of God, we all fall seriously short.

Have you ever: Lied? Stolen? Lusted?

Until you see yourself as a sinner—You won't see your need for a Saviour

You can't PERFORM your way to God.

### 3. BEING RIGHT WITH GOD COMES BY FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

**You don't need religion—You need Christ and Christ alone. Christ PLUS NOTHING!**

#### Religion

- What I Do
- About me
- Do
- If you obey

#### Christianity

- What Christ has done
- About Him
- Done (it is finished)
- Because He loves you – Now obey

## ST DAVIDS TEEN CHURCH

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Many people don't reject the Lord Jesus Christ - they reject the person people make Him out to be.

Religion has complicated what God has made so simple.

The good news is this:

WE sinned – Christ died – God forgave!

You can't earn it – You don't deserve it

### TALK IT OVER

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- After today has your understanding of religion changed?
- What are you doing to try and earn God's acceptance? How can you stop it?
- What is stopping you from putting your faith in God?