

HOW TO AVOID GOD...
and feel good, at least some of the time

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GOD WELCOMES WHEN CHRIST JESUS IS THE PATH, THE PRESENCE & THE PROMISE.

Intro

Isaiah 5 & John 15: a vineyard for the LORD...

ONE

The Spirit convicts of:

Sin: I fail to see my need of God's Son to cover my sins.

John 1.11; 3.19; 15.22

Right-wing conservatism/moralism
(God the judge is on my side)

Left-wing liberality/license
(God the forgiver is on my side)

- Both easily corrupted by brokenness/ desires to be justified by sex, money & power
- Both feed in part on the heart's desiring to be judged better than others

Self-Justification by avoiding sin

By your own:

RELIGIOUS RULES

(obey the in-crowd/PCness)

Leads to *pride/ legalism/ despair*

Self-righteous/Self-condemning

Self-justification by redefining sin

By your own:

SECULARIST RULES

(obey the in-crowd/PCness)

Leads to *pride/ lawlessness/*

Nihilism (no rules, meaning or justification)

I NEED BOTH A NEW HEART AND A NEW MORAL COMPASS.

He doesn't merely show **the way** for you not to sin; he is the way.
Jesus is the **path**...



TWO

The Spirit convicts of:

Righteousness: I am blind and think I can stand in God's Presence.

Romans 1.1-14; Acts 7.54-56

He doesn't give **truth** by which to stand; he is your standing.
Jesus is the **Presence**...



THREE

The Spirit convicts of:

Judgment: I am condemned with the world, the flesh & the devil.

John 8.42-47; 14.30; 12.31

Colossians 1.15-20; Galatians 6.12-16

He doesn't give new energy: **life** in him and he in you is *new-creation life*.
Jesus is the **promise**, one day to be shown in fullness...

Interact with John 16.4b-11 with these thoughts/questions:

1. *Interact:* There are not merely two kinds of people (religious and non-religious OR godly and ungodly) but also a third (the man or woman who know they cannot justify themselves, but stand before God in Christ).
2. *Interact:* at the essence of sin is our longing for the blessings of God's creation while leaving our Creator out of the picture (or at the margin).
3. Why is it so dangerous to think of Jesus' life as something merely to be imitated?
4. Why is it so dangerous to think that Jesus is merely one of many ways to God?
5. Why is it appropriate to worship Jesus Christ? Do you do so regularly?