



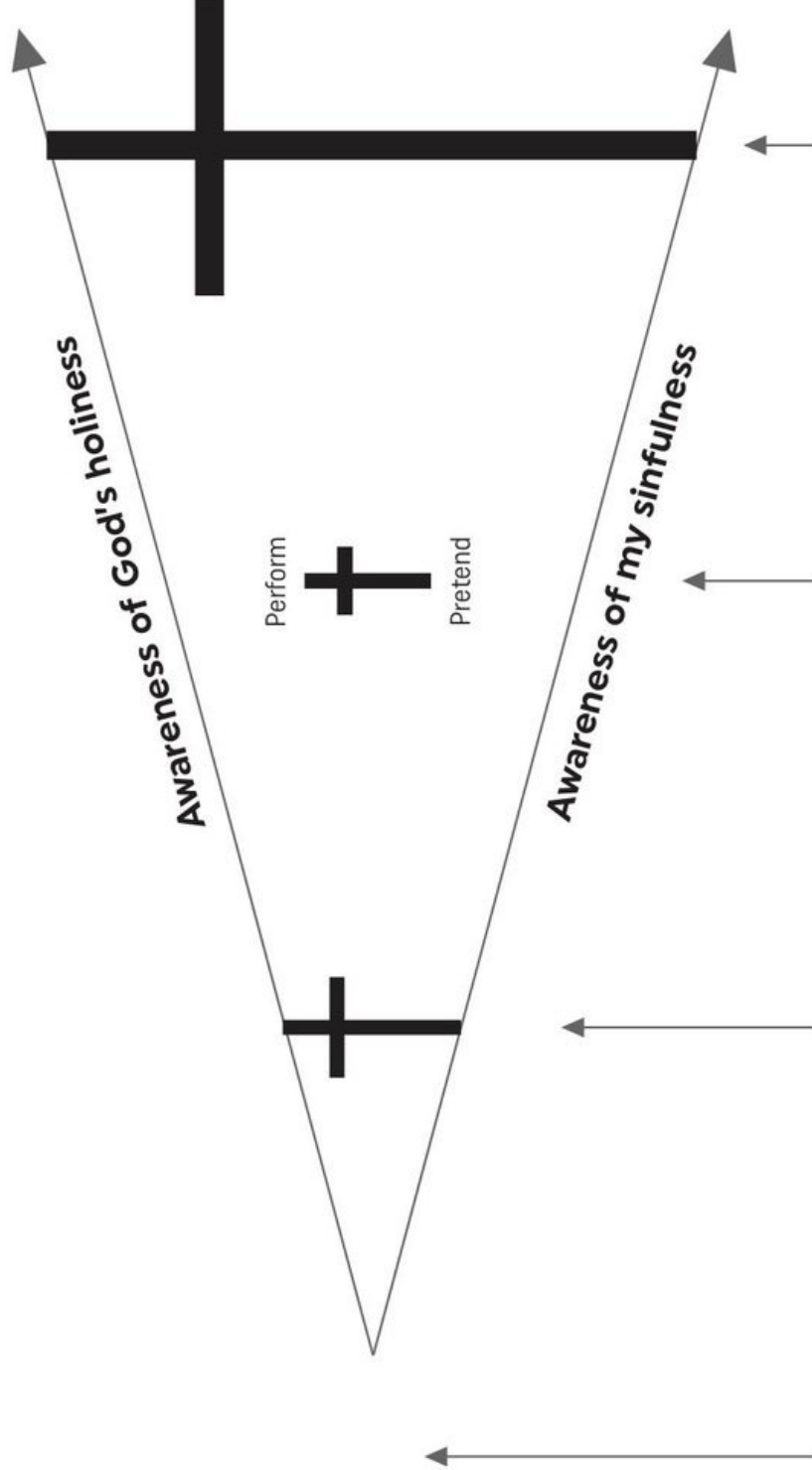
November 12, 2023

Romans: Rooted in Jesus
The Righteousness of God

Romans 3:21-31

For Discussion and Reflection

1. The gospel of substitutionary atonement upholds the law. It affirms that the law is holy and right and good. It confirms that there are none righteous, that none are able to be justified by obedience to the law. How does our self-righteous and performance diminish the law of God? How does self-righteousness diminish our perception of God?
2. We need to remember that we don't diminish God's glory. No matter how we live, God remains "wholly other" or transcendent in holiness. We can diminish his reputation or distort his glory through our lives. Discuss this together.
3. Often, our attempts to be "better, stronger, faster" are identity and reputation boosters. We labor to make ourselves what we imagine ourselves to be and how we want others to perceive us. How does the righteousness of God, imputed to us through faith, allow us to die to our reputation and live in humility before others? How can the gospel relieve our performance anxiety? How can it change our relationships into channels of grace?
4. How did you experience the cross chart (on back)? Review it and discuss. What should we boast in?
5. God is one. He shows no partiality. The Law charges everyone as sinners. No one is justified through their own obedience. God grants justification by faith to everyone who believes. How would you expect this teaching to change the temperature and dynamics within the Roman church?
6. While the Roman church was experiencing partiality between Jewish and Gentile believers, how does the modern church experience partiality?
7. What did you learn today? What steps can you take to grow in the grace of God?



Before Conversion
 Before I'm in a relationship with God, I have a limited understanding of my sinfulness and the character of God.

At Conversion
 I realize that I need Jesus to die for my sins, but I have a limited but growing awareness of both God's holiness and my sinfulness.

Shrinking the Cross
 Over time we forget to cling to Jesus' work on our behalf. We resort to thinking we have to perform to earn God's approval, and we pretend that we are not that bad. We don't believe that Jesus is enough, and we try to bridge the gap ourselves.

Boasting in the Cross
 As I daily believe the Gospel, the cross bridges the gap. I rest in my identity in Christ and His righteousness, which enables me to embrace God's holiness and own up to my sinfulness without trying to adjust the record. Now, by faith, I can enjoy the fullness of God's blessings and am freed up to love God and my neighbor.