

Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Rebels Rules to Following Jesus (pt.1)” - 01.26.14

Scripture: John 1:19-27

Bottom Line: True rebels have a gospel-driven identity and obedience.

INTRODUCTION:

What comes to your mind when you think of the word “rebel”? Honestly, there can be rule keeping rebels and rule breaking rebels. Which category do you find yourself? Are you a rule keeper or a rule breaker?

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 1:19-21

John the Baptizer was a mighty man of God. He was Jesus' cousin. He lived in the desert, dressed in camel's hair (very uncomfortable!), and ate bugs. But none of this made him a man of God.

- 1) What identities did the Jews try to pin on John?
- 2) What made John a “man of God”?

Read John 1:22-23

Think about how you define yourself? You might say Father, Husband, Son, Boss, etc. Think about what gives your life meaning and value. Then go back to John the Baptizer and see this answer in a completely new light. John calls himself “a voice” not “the voice”. Nothing too special, and yet...he connects himself to Jesus. This radically altars his value and meaning. He found his identity (value and meaning) in Jesus, not himself. He defines himself how Jesus defines him, not how the world would define him. This makes him a man of God. This also makes him a rebel because others find their identity in their rule breaking or rule keeping.

- 1) What did John reveal about his identity?

Read John 1:24-27

John was also a rebel because of what he did. His deeds weren't that different from other religious leaders but his motive for his deeds was completely different.

- 1) What does verses 26-27 reveal about John's actions?
- 2) What is your motivation in following God?

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

Typically being a rebel consists of someone who is a rule breaker, who has no respect for authority. While this is true, there is another type of rebel that cloaks themselves with good behavior. This is the rule keeper. Both rule breaking and rule keeping could be described as running from God. They could be further described as Irreligious running and Religious running. The Bible teaches that all people have wicked rebellious hearts against God. Yet people react to their hearts in different ways. Irreligious runners think that they can find life and meaning by breaking rules and not following God. They want to be in control. Religious runners place a high priority on morality, yet not in a way that reflects love for God or man. It has no true humility. They find meaning in rule keeping, in standing on their own morality. They also want to be in charge. It's not responding to God's grace, it's trying to earn it. This behavior reveals a deep distrust in God. He is keeping something from me. Therefore, I don't care (rule breaker). OR Therefore, I will obey every rule to earn this something (rule keeper). The truth is that both Irreligious and Religious running push God out of our lives. There is no life in these paths. Jesus offers us true life in him. We can now rest and believe he is where we find our value and identity. Embrace Jesus and rest in his work.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

- 1) How can we be godly rebels practically?
 - a. Preach the Gospel to yourself daily. Sermons, Books, Music –
 - b. Repent of Irreligious running or Religious rule-keeping. Turn from those ways and toward the gospel
 - c. Claim your new identity as an adopted child of God.
 - d. Get baptized, Be involved in Small Group, etc.
 - e. Defeat sin by looking to your Savior. When you remember your sin, remember what Jesus has done for you.
 - f. Use every part of your life to honor Jesus.