

Discussion Questions
Righteousness (Sometimes the Clothes Do Make the Man)
Ephesians 6:10-13

(Share about a time when you were forgiven a debt that you owed someone. What emotions and responses stirred in you when you learned you had been forgiven?)

- When you hear the word righteousness what do you think of?
- From your perspective, how does a person become righteous or unrighteous?

In this sermon, Peter shared about how he kept records of righteousness.

- Can you identify some times in your life when you have kept records of “righteousness”?
- Can you remember a time you felt you’d “arrived”—that you judged yourself as superior to others?
- What did you feel like in the midst of that judgment, did it feel good, bad, both or something else?
- How long did those feelings last?
- Is there any group that you currently are tempted to judge “out” so you could feel “in”?
- I think we all judge. Why do you think you judge?
- Do you struggle with trying to measure your righteousness against that of others? What about that of Jesus?
- In all your attempts in life to “make yourself righteous” do you feel righteous?

Read Ephesians 2:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Corinthians 1:30.

- According to these verses, where does your righteousness come from?
- How do you obtain or put on righteousness?

People often think that Paul is saying that obtaining righteousness or getting “right” with God is like learning dance steps. “They think it’s like God is saying, ‘Dance or else!’ ‘Make yourself righteous or else!’ It’s like holding a gun to someone’s head and saying,... ‘Dance to the rhythm of My Love;... Dance gracefully, faithfully, freely, and without fear, OR...I’ll torture you without end.’” —P.H.

- In what ways have you believed you needed to put on righteousness, like “learning dance steps or else...”?

“But that’s *not* what Paul said. Instead, in Colossians 2:13 he wrote:

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt, (record of unrighteousness) that stood against us with its legal demands, this he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Your debts are cancelled and you are *already* made righteous with, in, and through Christ.

- Are there any debts or sins that you struggle to believe are cancelled?
- Share them with a trusted friend, have them pray for you, speaking God’s truth into you—the truth that in Christ all the record of your debt is cancelled in Christ

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*