

PERFECTED

DISCUSSION GUIDE



CHAPTER 1: LAW OVER LOVE

1. Are you tempted to measure your worth by the good things you can accomplish?
How has that affected your relationship with God?
2. In what areas of your life have you experienced self-condemnation?
What would it look like for you to believe the truth that Christ does not condemn you?
3. Are you more like the older or younger brother in the story of the Prodigal Son?
How have you experienced the heavenly Father “running” to you in love?

CHAPTER 2: DIY RELIGION

1. How do you try to hide your mistakes and failures from others and from God?
Why do you think you feel the need to present a “perfect” exterior?
2. What are some modern-day sacrifices in your life?
What are good things you feel you must do to win approval from God and others?
3. How can your longing for perfection drive you closer to God instead of farther from him?
How can you lay your desire for wholeness in your life at the feet of Jesus?

CHAPTER 3: A RIGHT VIEW OF GOD

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you’re asked to describe God?
How does that perception of God impact how you approach him?
2. Which of the three attributes of God discussed in this chapter is hardest for you to grasp—his steadfast love, his slowness to anger, or his compassionate grace? Why do you think that is?
3. How can you practice turning your eyes to Jesus to see God for who he really is when you are tempted to believe lies about him?

CHAPTER 4: A RIGHT VIEW OF OURSELVES

1. How would you answer the question, “Who are you?” Do you tend to define yourself by your achievements, your appearance, or your accolades?
2. In the past, have you tended to believe that you were inherently good or bad? How does the fact that you are made in the image of the Creator impact the way you view yourself?
3. Do you feel pressure to be “superhuman”? What would it look like to accept your limitations as a good gift from God?

CHAPTER 5: A RIGHT VIEW OF SALVATION

1. Do you struggle with viewing your salvation as a “transaction” with God?
How have you felt like you “owed” God for the grace he’s shown you?
2. What mistakes and regrets can you release because you are in Christ?
What gifts can you joyfully receive because Christ is in you?
3. How does the fact that Christ has “perfected you for all time” change the way you pursue growth in your life?

CHAPTER 6: ASSURANCE OF FAITH

1. Do you believe that Jesus not only loves you, but that he also likes you? Do you believe that God delights in you? Why or why not? How does your perception of his affection impact your spiritual life?
2. In the past, where have you found assurance in your faith? In your parents' beliefs, in your good works, in your church's programming, etc.? How can you surrender those false assurances and find true confidence in Christ?
3. What would it look like for you to draw near to God with full assurance? What idols, fears, and doubts are keeping you from enjoying God's presence fully?

CHAPTER 7: ENDURING HOPE

1. What are you tempted to put your hope in—your knowledge and control, your good works, your financial security, etc.? Can you confess the false hopes in your heart to God?
2. Are you currently enduring suffering? Like Jeremiah, how can you turn your heart and mind to hope when everything feels hopeless?
3. What does it look like to hold onto Christ during hard seasons? How can you also rest knowing that he is holding onto you?

CHAPTER 8: LOVE-MOTIVATED GOOD WORKS

1. How have you struggled with “celebratory failurism” in the past—believing that you can never succeed, so you shouldn't even try? In what ways has this perspective still left you unsatisfied?
2. What would it look like for you to rely on God's strength—not your own efforts—to walk in obedience?
3. Are you following God's command to rest? Why or why not? How can you incorporate rhythms of rest into your day and week?

CHAPTER 9: BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

1. In the past, have you tried to hide your true self from the local church? If so, why have you struggled to trust Christ's body?
2. Which of the three ways we can be devoted to one another—confession, service, and exhortation—do you need to pursue? Write down a way you can practice one of these within your local body this week.
3. Have you shared your struggle with shame and striving with anyone? Identify one person within your local church with whom you can share the truths you are learning from this book (and other truths you are learning!).