

ARE YOU RIGHTEOUS?

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God wants us to be righteous, and even if we don't believe in God we still want to be thought of as righteous. That's why we defend ourselves if we are caught out in some sin or mistake, and if anyone tries to tell us we are wrong, we can get quite angry and justify our actions, even if we KNOW we are in the wrong. That's obviously why the courts are full and behind in their cases.

However our level of righteousness depends on whose standard we are looking at. Human nature sets the standard higher for others than for ourselves. The law sets a social standard of righteousness, and apart from a few slip-ups most people consider they keep it. Their ACTS are mostly righteous.

CHRISTIANS, however, are obliged, by their own confession of being "Jesus' people", to have God's standard as their requirement. Jewish people have the ten commandments, because this is how they chose to relate to God. Although Abraham's righteousness was accounted to him by his FAITH in God, not by law-keeping, he still tried to be obedient to God's commandments. Christians, however, have Jesus' commandments – only two – love God and love your neighbour. The Bible also explains that if you do not love your brother, whom you have seen, you do not love God whom you have not seen. The whole of John's first letter explains this very clearly. Fulfilling this law is a demonstration of our righteousness.

The advantage, of course, that Christians have is that, because of the death of Jesus in OUR place, of His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God, where He prays for all who have put their FAITH in Him and what He has done, we have a GIFT of righteousness imputed to us, the same as Abraham was given – God sees us as righteous through the representation of Jesus Himself. We are given the Holy Spirit to nudge us when we make a mistake so we can admit (confess), say sorry at once and have the peace of a clear conscience. Without this faith we are on our own.

Because it is so tempting to go back to human (or self-) righteousness, God, in His wisdom, sends messengers to help us. When they come to you, receive them as from the Lord, and REPENT. God is so gracious and will immediately flood you with His peace.

REPENT! Regularly! If you have never understood the advantages before and want to put your faith in Jesus, do it now.