



Polluted

DISCUSSION ►

Kyle referred to these current and former laws. Which would you vote to retain?

For Against

_____ _____ A person may not wear cowboy boots unless he owns at least three cows.

_____ _____ Owners of homes with Christmas lights up past February 2nd will be fined \$250.

_____ _____ Gathering and consuming roadkill shall be illegal.

_____ _____ No more than five inoperable vehicles may occupy one piece of property at one time.

_____ _____ A woman may not buy a hat without her husband's permission.

_____ _____ Women should not be allowed to drive a motorized vehicle unless a man precedes it waving a red flag to warn oncoming pedestrians or motorists.

These two Scriptures tell us why there are so many laws in the Bible.

"Now do you see it? No one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what the law commands. For the more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them." —ROMANS 3:20, LB

So what was the law for? It was given to show that the wrong things people do are against God's will. . . . In other words, the law was our guardian leading us to Christ. —GALATIANS 3:19, 24, NCV

FOR REFLECTION

These are optional thought questions to ponder or respond to in writing between sessions. You will *not* be asked to share them in the next session but may find it helpful to talk them over with a friend.

Of the pollutants Kyle mentioned, which has particularly bothered you?

- the boring, monotonous nature of so many churches
- making following Jesus all about keeping certain rules
- political or social agendas, and personal opinions added onto Jesus' message
- the hypocrisy of those who claim to be following Him
- the general weirdness of Christians
- something else: _____

If you had an important message to tell the world, but other people came along and twisted, polluted, and added to it, how would you feel?

What would you imagine to be Jesus' reaction to the abuses and misuses of His message?

The Bible actually tells us not to blindly trust people, *especially* those who claim to be communicating messages from God. That's because people will let us down. People will intentionally mislead. People are polluted. John, one of Jesus' closest followers, wrote:

*My dear friends, don't believe everything you hear.
Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you.
Not everyone who talks about God comes from God.
There are a lot of lying preachers loose in the world.*

—1 JOHN 4:1, *THE MESSAGE*

Try writing out your view of Jesus; that is, try to describe Him as you see Him.

Where did you get your information for what you just wrote? Check all that apply.

from accounts of Him recorded in the Bible

from what I've read in books or magazines

from how the church represents Him

from the way Christians act

from the attitudes of my parents, professors, friends, etc.

■ Which aspects of your view came from eyewitness descriptions of Him like those found in the Bible? Circle them.

■ Which came from less-than-reliable sources? Cross them out.

■ Which came from . . . well, you don't know where? Put a question mark beside those.

The preacher in the DVD described Jesus this way.

The love of Jesus is not conditional.
It isn't based on ulterior motives.
It has no hidden agendas.
There's nothing you can do to deserve it.
And there's nothing you can do to lose it.
It's free. It's powerful. It's pure.

Are you willing to consider Jesus on His own terms, to see if He is like what this preacher described?

Remember to bring this participant's guide to the next gathering.

*"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."*
—HEBREWS 13:5