

# Let's Get Small

Long Beach Alliance Church • February 7, 2016 • Elder Scott Slade

*He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, she stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.*

*He must increase, but I must decrease.*

*~ John 3:29-30 (New King James Version)*

## 1) What's it all about, Jesus? How can we have a righteousness that exceeds the Scribes and Pharisees?

A) The law explained (not rewritten)

B) But I'm a good person, right . . . like, I've never killed anyone.

i.) What if Lee Harvey Oswald got a flat tire on his way to the Texas School Book Depository?

ii.) *But I look marvelous!* **Matthew 23:27-28**

C) Can I please God simply by succeeding, even for a short time, in restraining myself from sinful acts?

i.) The method Christian – What's my motivation? God has already taken care of the fear of punishment, so what's left?

ii.) Recipe for a great marriage.

## 2) "Why are you angry?" --- It's not fair! I have rights! I deserve respect!

A) I am Cain **Genesis 4:3-8**

B) Everything I have comes from \_\_\_\_\_. God owes me \_\_\_\_\_.

i.) The example of David. **1 Samuel 16:7 Acts 13:22**

ii.) The example of Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

C) So many verses, so little time: **James 1:13-15, Ephesians 4:31-32, Proverbs 16:32, James 1:19, Psalm 103:8, Proverbs 19:11**

## 3) Yes, it really IS that big of a deal.

A) **FIRST**, be reconciled to your brother – v. 23

B) The example of **John the Baptist**. Your role is not the reward.

**"How much larger your life would be if your self could become smaller in it."**

**~ G. K. Chesterton**

**Bonus Points! Memorize Galatians 2:20**

# Guidelines for Relationships with Outsiders

## *From their Perspective*

- 1. Listen to me.* Talk less. Learn to listen better. That way you can understand the needs and backgrounds of people.
- 2. Don't label me.* Using terms like “lost,” “pagans,” and “nonbelievers” are not particularly endearing.
- 3. Don't be so smart.* Don't pretend to have all the answers. If you are not sure, just say so. They are not always looking for an answer from Christians-usually they are not.
- 4. Put yourself in my place.* Christians seem to be concerned only about what people do or don't do-such as whether they go to church and have acceptable behaviors. People want you to understand some of the things they have suffered and gone through. They believe that Christians should learn to appreciate them and better understand their choices.
- 5. Be genuine.* Trust is undermined when Christians try to wedge a little spirituality in every opportunity. People feel that it disrespects their intelligence. Many of them have no problem with the fact that faith is so important to us, and they don't mind hearing about it occasionally. Yet they can tell the difference between topics that come up naturally and when we inject some spiritual angle that doesn't fit.
- 6. Be my friend with no other motives.* People say they sometimes get the feeling that Christians have befriended them with the ulterior motive of getting them into church. They like having Christian friends, but not with those who have a not-so-hidden agenda. They get uneasy when they sense a scheme to “warm them up” to go to church someday. Friendship ought to be real, based on genuine interest in one another.