NOTES

Sunday, November 22nd, 2026

Share in your group your first church experience. Did you see Jesus or did you see rules/religion? What was your personal experience of getting to know God? How did this impact you in a good or negative way? It's easy to get critical and negative here. I encourage you to not focus too long on the negative, but instead, what did you learn and take from those experiences that helped you get to where you are today.

The people of God created a lot of rules and traditions in order to help God's people stay pure and righteous. These rules began to become more important than the people they were intended to help. Where do you see this same thing creep up into your own life? What rules, traditions and customs are you holding on to more tightly than the people itself?

Have you begun to develop a critical spirit like the Pharisees, where you are focused more on what is 'not right' verses all the good things that Jesus is doing right in front of your face but you can't even see them because you are focused on norms/rules/traditions?

When people see you, do they see 'rules/religion' or do they see Jesus? There may be some areas of your life that are better than others. What areas of your life do you cling more to 'rules' than to Him? What is God asking you to 'let go of' and trust Him more than the 'rules'.

What is one thing you can do this week that will allow people to see Jesus in you verses the religion in you?