

Chapter Three: *If It's Broken, Fix It!*

Getting Connected

This chapter begins with the author assessing his skills as a handyman. Which of the following options do you usually default to when you need to fix something that's broken around the house? Please share.

- Pay a repairman to fix it for you
- Call a relative or friend to fix it for you
- Call a relative or friend to help you fix it
- Fix it with the help of a do-it-yourself book
- Fix it yourself and figure it out as you go
- Buy and use lots of duct tape
- Watch TV
- Other:

How easily do you admit that you're in over your head when something that's broken needs to be fixed?

Have you ever misjudged your abilities as a handyman and made a bad situation worse?

Highlights and Insights

In your own words, how would you summarize Chapter 3?

How does it build upon what you've learned so far in chapters 1 and 2?

Was there anything that really caught your attention, challenged or confused you in this chapter?

In this chapter, the author asserts that "trying to be good" doesn't get us any closer to God, it actually moves us away from Him.

What do you think he means by this statement?

Would you agree or disagree? Explain.

To what degree has the teaching you've experienced to-date affirmed or contradicted this statement?

Good News For Those Trying Harder, by Pastor Alan Kraft

Biblical Focus

Read Luke 18:9-14.

What does the Pharisee's prayer reveal about his lifestyle and his heart?

What does the tax collector's prayer reveal about his lifestyle and his heart?

According to the text, why did the tax collector go home acceptable in God's eyes, and not the Pharisee?

In what ways are you likely to "exalt yourself" as a Pharisee as opposed to "humble yourself" like a tax collector in your approach to God?

In light of this, what's so insidious about spiritual blindness? Share an example from your life if you have one.

"Before you can be certain that Jesus Christ is in your heart, you must be brought to see not only that your sins must be done away with, but also your 'righteousness'."

--George Whitfield

What are some "righteous things" God might be inviting you to do away with, because they're more about your self-righteousness, and have little to do with His righteousness?

The Heart of the Matter

What might be some of the sins at the top of your "these don't please God" list?

What "lesser" sins are easy for you to leave off this list? Why?

Be as real as you're able ... how have your relationships with others been affected by what is on each list? How has your relationship with God been affected?

Review the story of the prodigal sons in Luke 15:11-31. Which son do you find it easier to relate to? In what areas do you relate?

In Conclusion ...

As you seek to apply this chapter's message, consider what it would look and feel like for your soul to dance to the melody of God's grace. Share your answer with your group.

How can your group participate in taking some "dancing lessons" together?