

5. Think of someone you know who is apathetic or indifferent toward Jesus and Christianity. How might you communicate the urgency of repentance to this person?

6. Explain why understanding the depth of our sin can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation for God's grace.

7. What specific steps will you take to cultivate a responsive and repentant heart?

**Responding to Jesus**

"How to Keep Doubt from Distancing  
You from God" (Part 3)

Matthew 11:16-24

**How to Keep Doubt from Distancing You from God**

When you experience doubt...

1. Question your doubts, not just your faith.
2. Diagnose the source(s) of your doubt.
3. Bring your doubts to God.
4. Detox your faith.
5. Explore the \_\_\_\_\_ and grace of God.

God's punitive judgment is hard to \_\_\_\_\_ with God's love.

Wrestling with this doubt has caused me to go \_\_\_\_\_ in my understanding of God's goodness and grace.

**How to approach God's punitive judgment:**

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ away God's punitive judgment.
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the meaning of love.
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the cause of God's punitive judgment.

No one will experience God's punitive judgment for rejecting Christ and God's grace in Christ; punitive judgment is the \_\_\_\_\_ consequence of our sins.

- Don't underestimate the evil of your sins and \_\_\_\_\_ caused by them.

God created the world to be a place where heaven and earth meet and he lives with us. We are the ones who created \_\_\_\_\_.

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



We don't see the full \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin as it ripples out from us. But God sees it all—the farthest impacts of our sin and every aspect of the supply chain of sin. And because he is love, he will apply punitive judgment.

“...Sin is less like target practice on some isolated piece of countryside and more like losing arrows on a city sidewalk in the midst of a pressing crowd. All around us are bodies, writhing or dead, struck down by our errant arrows.” (Ted Olson)

- Don't underestimate God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Detox your \_\_\_\_\_ of God's punitive judgment.
- Don't underestimate the \_\_\_\_\_.  
On the cross, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ God's punitive judgment for our sins in our place.

Romans 5: <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Corinthians 5: <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Don't underestimate the \_\_\_\_\_ of your desire and drive to rule your own life and kick God to the curb or expect him to serve your agendas.

“[Jesus is] teaching us that unbelief is not just a lack of something; it's the presence of something. Unbelief is not just a lack of faith because of a lack of evidence or a lack of cogent arguments; unbelief is the presence of something else.” (Tim Keller)

#### Resources:

- The Reason for God: Belief in the Age of Skepticism by Tim Keller
- The Holiness of God by R.C. Sproul
- “Rejecting the Real Jesus,” sermon by Tim Keller at <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/rejecting-the-real-jesus/>

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 11:16-24. What do you think might have precipitated what Jesus is talking about in these verses (note v. 7 and 20)?
3. Jesus speaks tough words of judgment in this passage. The example was given in the sermon about a teacher who is considered to be kind and loving and who does nothing about a bully. Provide another example of how love and punitive judgment work together in harmony.
4. According to 11:16-19, what might be the underlying causes of the dissatisfaction and unresponsiveness to Jesus by so many people?