- 1. What were some of the rules in your home as a child? Did you always agree with and obey them? If you are a parent now, do you have a different perspective of those rules?
- 2. What are some ways traditions can reinforce faith? What are some ways traditions can deter faith?
- 3. <u>Discuss this statement</u>: The gospel is shorthand for all that God has done for us and in us through Christ for His own glory. How does this apply to a person who is already saved?
- 4. Have you ever thought the gospel was primarily for unbelievers who need to be saved rather than the truth in which believers continually live according to Christ? How does believing deeper of the gospel produce growth in a Christian?
- 5. Discuss these two errors of self-made religion.
 - a. Self-made religion relies on human effort to keep God's standards in an effort to earn God's favor.

b. Self-made religion adds regulations beyond the clear teaching of Scripture? How have you been affected by these?

- 6. Why is self-made religion powerless to stop the indulgence of the flesh? If self-made religion doesn't stop it, what does? What indulgences of the flesh are eating your lunch? How does the gospel's power overcome them?
- 7. Discuss your answers to these questions...
 - Do you ever excuse yourself from obedience and holiness by labeling God's standards as "religion?"
 - Do you ever label someone as a "legalist" simply because they have higher standards than you?
 - Do you ever look down on someone or exclude someone because they participate in an activity that you think is ungodly?
 - Do you ever discount Christian disciplines or scorn the Church because it "sniffs" of tradition or structure?
 - Do you find yourself more prone to moralism or mysticism? What is the root of both? What is the remedy for both?