

**“What Is My Position?”**  
Speaker: Norm Sennema



**“What Is My Position?”**  
(or “Why I am right!”)



Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:9-10

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Luke 18:11-12

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said,

‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

Luke 18:13

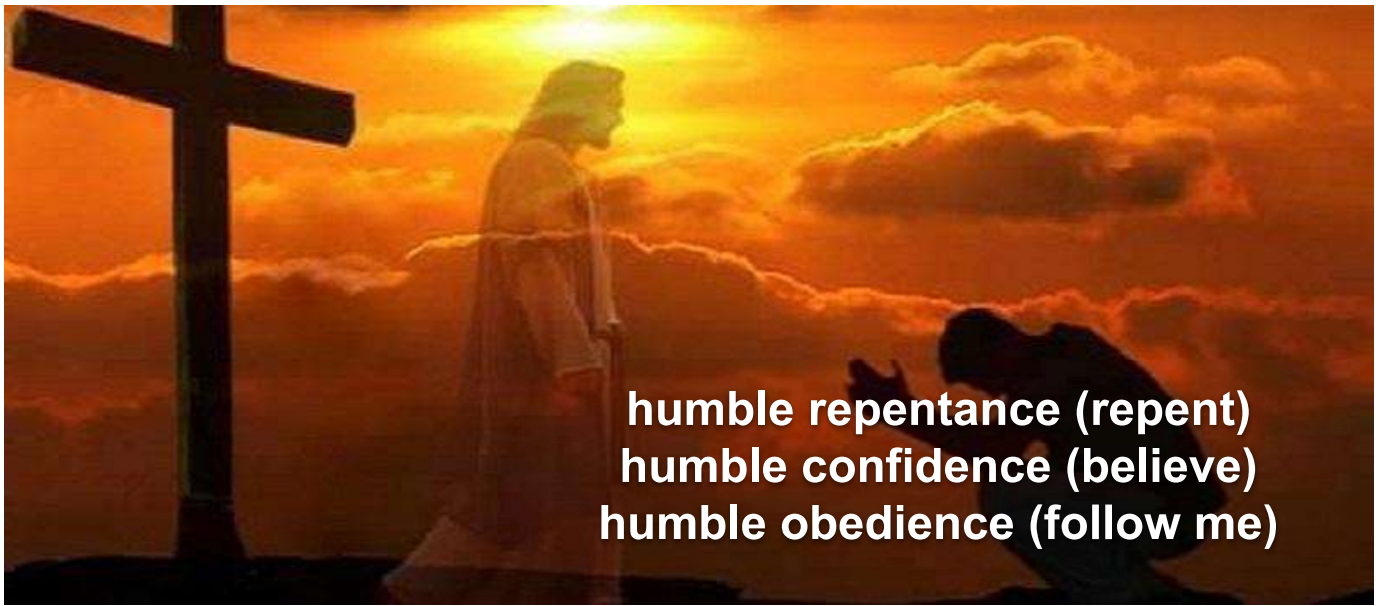
I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Luke 18:14



Why the tax collector is right...  
by grace alone!



**humble repentance (repent)**  
**humble confidence (believe)**  
**humble obedience (follow me)**

Why the tax collector is right...  
through humble faith!



*Jesus follower*

Philippians 3:4-12

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for **righteousness** based on the law, faultless.

Philippians 3:4-6

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Philippians 3:7-8

I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a **righteousness** of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the **righteousness** that comes from God on the basis of faith.

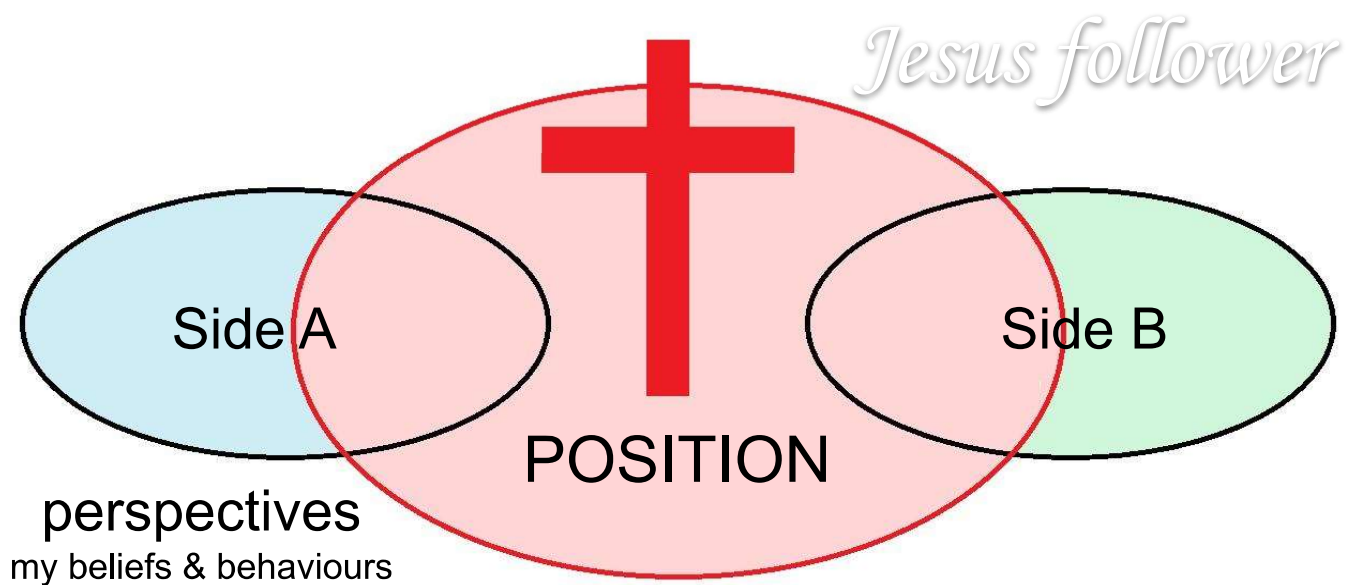
Philippians 3:9

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11

Not that I have already obtained all this,  
or have already arrived at my goal,  
but I press on to take hold of that for which  
Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Philippians 3:12

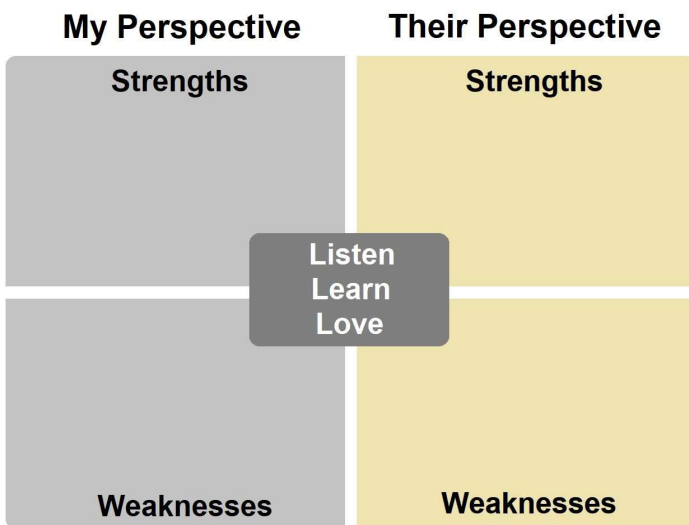


Where am I confident?





Graced... to be gracious!



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Listen, learn and love!



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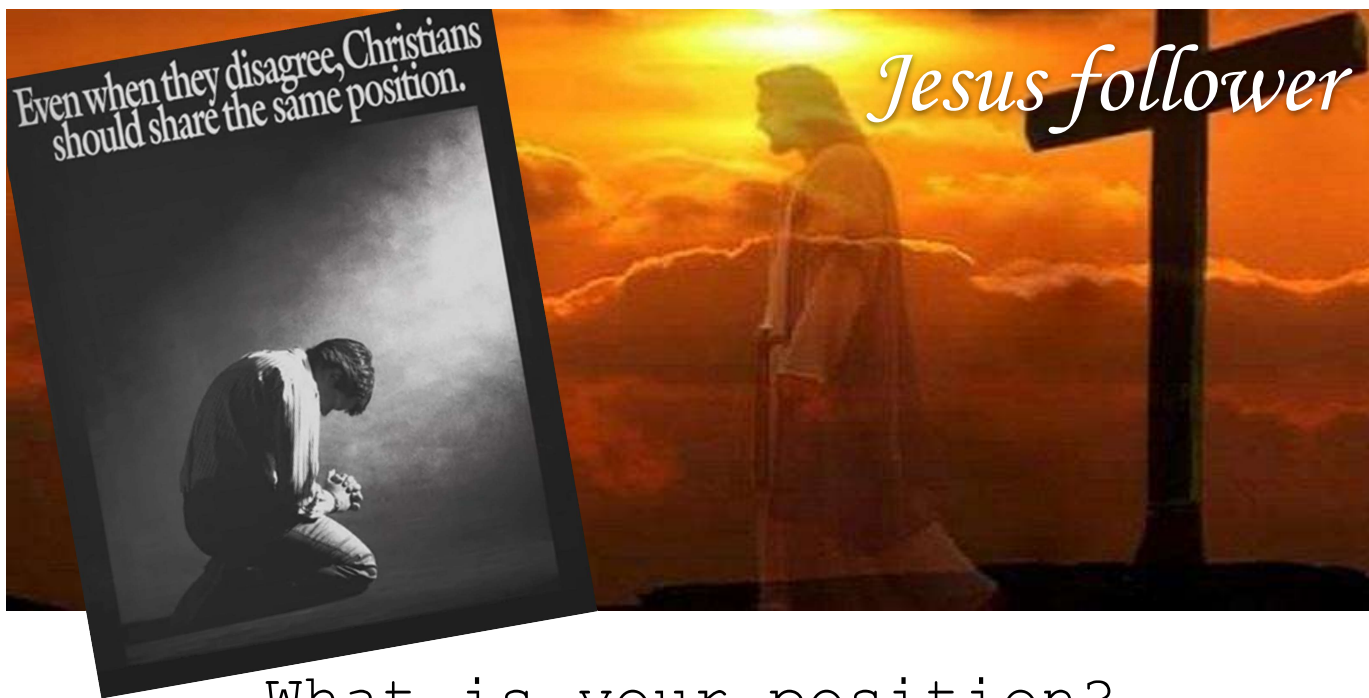
*sanctification*

Being right and growing right!



A word to 'tax collectors'!

Even when they disagree, Christians  
should share the same position.



*Jesus follower*

What is your position?

*Jesus follower*  
Prayer

**Lord Jesus, help me to be  
confident in you and not in my  
own 'rightness'. Help me to be  
as gracious with others as you  
are with me. Amen.**

# Jesus follower

## BIBLE READINGS

*"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." (Psalm 51:17)*

*"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18:14)*

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24)*

*"You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace." (Galatians 5:4)*

*"In regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith." (Phillipians 3:5-9)*

*"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." (Philippians 3:12)*

# Jesus follower

## THINK ABOUT IT...

1. Are you confident that your beliefs and behaviours are right?
2. Is claiming to be orthodox the same as being self-righteous?
3. If humility is what matters, why should we strive to be holy?
4. How can 'kneeling' help us and others grow more 'right' like Jesus?
5. What issues do you need to be more humble and gracious about?