



Counter Culture: Week 5 — “Warn One Another”

CONNECT: Who are you rooting for in the Super Bowl?

GROW:

1. Have you experienced hypocrisy or legalism in a church setting before? How did that impact you and your relationship with God/church?
2. **Read Matthew 23:23-28.** Jesus has some harsh words for the Pharisees on hypocrisy and legalism. Obviously, none of us ever *intend* to be hypocritical or legalistic, but we're all susceptible, and it's important for us to look inward and honestly evaluate ourselves.
 - a. When are you tempted to “put on a show” for others? Do you ever struggle to be the same person during the week as you are on Sunday?
 - b. Do you ever find yourself focusing too heavily on “rules” when it comes to your own faith walk or that of other Christians? Is it hard for you to look at others through the lens of grace? When are you attempted to compare yourself to others on a behavioral scale?
3. **Read Hebrews 3:12-14.** This passage emphasizes the importance of being careful about the state of our own hearts, and also speaking truth when needed to other believers. Practically speaking, what does it look like to do these things well while also staying away from legalism?
4. Jon mentioned that one of our goals at Southland is to create cultures of grace at each of our campuses. In what ways do you see that clearly at your campus, and in what ways do you think it could grow?
5. God's grace gives us the freedom to become who He created us to be and saved us to be. And at Southland, we believe the best way to do that is to live *with Jesus* (daily interaction with Him), *in community* (encouraging and challenging one another as followers of Jesus), and *on mission* (inviting others into life with Jesus). How would you evaluate yourself in terms of those three things?

PRAY: Pray that God would reveal any kind of hidden hypocrisy or legalism in our lives and in our church body, and ask Him for help in understanding and living in His grace.

NEXT: Based on your answer to question #5, take a step this week toward growing in that area.