

# Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

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## Christian – Session 7 Loopholes

### Discussion Questions

1. Why are we so eager to find loopholes – especially religious loopholes?
2. How do Christians manufacture extra rules in order to preserve their own comforts or biases?
3. How would you describe your view of theology? Do you see theology as helpful or harmful?
4. How can you tell if you're more in love with the commands in the Bible than with the *Commander*?
5. Are you convinced that Jesus understood His Father's intentions as written in the Bible? Why or why not?

6. How would you answer the question, “What does love require of me?”

## **Mileposts:**

- We naturally love loopholes as a way of escaping God’s requirements that we find uncomfortable, and we base these loopholes on the Bible.
- But Jesus doesn’t like it when we use His Father’s words to avoid doing His Father’s will.
- Loving God and loving others is to be our filter for rightly guiding every situation in life. We’re to always ask, “What does love require of me?”

## **Moving Forward:**

What does it mean practically for you to be a debtor to other people, to owe them the continuing debt of love, according to Romans 13:8? Is this a new way of thinking for you? What will help you remember this obligation toward others in your daily life?

## **Changing Your Mind**

Let these words from Paul remind you of how strongly we owe it to God and to others to extend love to everyone:

*Let no debt remain outstanding,  
except the continuing debt to love one another,  
for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.  
Romans 13:8*

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## Preparation for Session 8:

To help you prepare for Session 8, use these suggested devotions during the week leading up to your small group meeting.

### Day 1

Turn today to Matthew 22:37-40, which is another account of a passage we looked at last week (Mark 12:28-34). Notice especially verse 40. What do you find most significant in this verse? What do you think Jesus wants us to understand most from His words here?

### Day 2

To help review and reinforce where we've been in these sessions, look at Acts 11:26. What new understanding do you have of this passage?

### Day 3

Look today at Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16. Together with yesterday's verse, these passages represent the three places the word "Christian" is used in the Bible. Taken together, what do they tell us about this word?

### Day 4

Today, reflect on the way the word "disciple" is used in Acts 6:7, 9:26, and 9:36. What new understanding do you have of this word?

### Day 5

Finally, turn once more to the crucial statement in John 13:34-35. What new understanding do you have of these profound words of Jesus?