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**Valley Church**

**December 29 & 30, 2018**  
**Resolutions vs. Resolution**

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**Introduction:**

Romans 8:3-4

**The Functions of God's Law:**

1. To show us our \_\_\_\_\_
2. To point us to \_\_\_\_\_

**What the New Testament teaches us:**

- The Law is for the unrighteous – not the righteous (1 Tim. 1:8-10)
- The Law cannot justify and person – (Gal. 2:16)
- The Law cannot impart life (Gal. 3:21)
- No one will ever keep the Law (Matt. 5:21-29; James 2:10)
- The Law actually arouses more sin (Rom. 7:5, 8; 1 Cor. 15:56)
- Jesus already completely fulfilled the requirements of the Law for us (Gal. 4:4-5; Matt. 5:17-18; Rom. 8:3-4)
- Law and faith do not mix (Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:24-25; Rom. 8:3-4)
- Those who are in Christ have died to the Law (Rom. 7:4-6; Gal. 2:19)
- We are not to look to the Law as a source of sanctification (Gal. 3:1-3; 5:2-4)
- Grace (not Law) teaches us to live godly lives (Tit. 2:11-14; 2 Cor. 12:9)

**Life in Christ - A New Paradigm:**

A New \_\_\_\_\_

A New \_\_\_\_\_

A New \_\_\_\_\_

**The essence of being a disciple of Jesus is:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and believing who you truly are in Him
2. \_\_\_\_\_ up each day and being yourself

## **LIFE GROUP AND PERSONAL REFLECTION Q'S**

### **Personal Life:**

1. Open your discussion or reflection time by noting at least one New Year's resolution you succeeded with...and one that you didn't. What were those things?

### **Ponderings:**

2. While New Year's resolutions are not necessarily bad or wrong in and of themselves, based upon the weekend message can you recall some of the things you were encouraged to evaluate when making them?
3. Why is putting yourself under law (even law disguised as "good advice") something to beware of?
4. Read Colossians 2:16-23 as a group and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
  - If you could boil this passage down to one core emphasis, what is it trying to tell us?
  - What application might verses 20-23 have in relation to the modern notion of New Year's resolutions or other so-called "personal disciplines?"
  - Why are rules and regulations ultimately insufficient to empowering you to live a better life? Discuss...

### **Promptings:**

5. If you were to resolve to embrace realities of A) knowing who you really are, and B) being yourself every day, how might that transform your way of life? Discuss...
6. How is Christ the ultimate answer to the new #1 New Year's resolution of "becoming a better person?" Are you resting in your new identity in Christ? Are you trusting Him for fruit or trying to live from your own power? How do you know? Discuss...