

WITH GOD

Beyond the Rules,
Beneath the Formulas
...in His Presence



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
October 18, 2026

LIVING BY THE RULES
Pastor David Larson | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

We know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1 (ESV)

1. Knowing _____ should help me know Him.

And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. John 17:3 (NLT)

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. John 5:39-40 (NLT)

2. I can trust God without _____ Him out.

3. Being _____ God matters more than my _____ for Him.

The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple. Psalm 27:4 (NLT)

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We know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. 1 Corinthians 8:1 (ESV)

1. Knowing **TRUTH** should help me know Him.

And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. John 17:3 (NLT)

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. John 5:39-40 (NLT)

2. I can trust God without **FIGURING** Him out.

3. Being **WITH** God matters more than my **PERFORMANCE** for Him.

The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple. Psalm 27:4 (NLT)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
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CONNECT

What are some basic life rules that society could NOT live without? Why are these “rules” good for us?

ENGAGE

What stood out to you most from this week’s message, and why?

GROW

1. Why are we naturally drawn to formulas in our relationship with God?
2. How can biblical knowledge become a source of pride?
3. How should knowing truth help us know God better?
4. Where in your life are you tempted to try to “figure God out”?
5. Have you ever followed the “right steps” but gotten an unexpected outcome?
6. How can spiritual disciplines become more about performance than relationship?
7. What is one practical way you can move from **Life Over God** to **Life With God** this week?

LEAD (YOURSELF)

When you don’t have an answer... stay close to Him. When life doesn’t make sense... stay close to Him. Because the goal was never to become an expert at managing God. The goal has always been to walk WITH God.

One last reminder that following Jesus isn’t a formula to master. It’s not a system to control. It’s not a set of rules to manipulate. It’s an invitation into relationship with the living God.

And the invitation isn’t: “Figure Me out.” The invitation is: “Come walk WITH Me.”