

# *“The Self-Righteous and the Sinner”*

Luke 18:9-14

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Pew Research Center’s Poll on Religion in America
- Most think of themselves as “good people”
- How religious must a person be to be accepted by God? On what basis can a person approach God?

## *“The Self-Righteous and the Sinner”*

### **A. The Setting—Luke 18:9-10a**

1. Addressed to the “Self-righteous”—v. 9
  - a. *“Confident of their own righteousness”*
  - b. *“Looks down on everyone else”*
2. The Temple as the “house of prayer”
  - a. Close proximity to God—1 Kings 8:27-30; Isaiah 56:7
  - b. Regular times for prayer.

### **B. The Story: Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector**

1. **The Self-Righteous Pharisee—18:11-12**
  - a. His Stance—*“stood up”*
  - b. His Soliloquy – *“prayed about or to himself”*
    - 1) Self-Centered—about *“me, myself, and I”*
    - 2) Compares himself with others and comes out on top.
    - 3) Lists his accomplishments that prove his piety
      - a) *“Fast twice a week”*
      - b) *“Gives a tenth of everything to God”*
2. **The Sinner or Tax Collector—18:13**
  - a. His Stance
    - 1) Stood at a distance
    - 2) Would not look up to heaven
    - 3) Beats his breast—Jer. 31:19
  - b. His Sincere, Simple Request!
    - 1) Calls himself *“a sinner”*
    - 2) Begs for mercy
      - a) *“God, be propitiated to me, a sinner”*
      - b) OT background of the Day of Atonement
      - c) No sacrifice for willful sins—Psalm 51
      - d) Lit. *“God, view me as covered under the blood”*

### **C. The Story Applied**

1. The Verdict: Who goes home justified before God?—v. 14
2. The Principle: *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to humble*
3. The Application for Today: Christ as our Atoning Sacrifice