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# The Deception of Perfection

*Special Guest: Dr. Kevin Leman*

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Services from March 6/7, 2010

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## Objective

To examine the difference between being a perfectionist and a pursuer of excellence.

## Ice Breaker

**(Small Group Leader chooses one)**

Where do you fall in the birth order of your family?

Describe the best wedding you've ever attended.

What is your favorite bumper sticker?

## Practical Application

**Matthew 5:48 – *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***

What does this scripture mean to you? How do you achieve what the scripture demands?

## *Don't be a Pharisee*

**"Rules without relationship lead to rebellion"**

In what ways do modern Christians act like Pharisees? How do Pharisaical rules lead to rebellion? In what ways do the "rules" get in the way of enjoying being a Christ follower? Where do you need to make adjustments in this area?

**John 2:1-5 – *On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."<sup>4</sup> "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied, "My time has not yet come."<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."***

Why is this scripture an example of Mary ignoring the rules and embracing the relationship instead? Did it take faith for Mary to act as she did? Why or why not? What steps can you take in your life to make your relationship with Jesus more like the one Mary had with Him?

## *Flaunt your imperfection*

Why is it a struggle to be a perfectionist? Where in your life do you come up short of perfection? As a Christian, when is it okay to fall short of perfection? Why? What role does your relationship with Jesus play in this process?

What is your biggest imperfection? How can you pursue excellence there? What is the difference between a perfectionist and a pursuer of excellence? What is the difference in how they handle failure? What is the difference in how they handle criticism?

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**Revelation 3:16 – *So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.***

Why do you think God has such disdain for those who are lukewarm? What does it look like when Christians are lukewarm? Give specific examples. Can you be both lukewarm and a pursuer of excellence at the same time? Why or why not?

### **Conclusion**

The word of God says that He loved us so much that He got on that cross and died so we can have eternal life. God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but He demands that we fervently pursue excellence in our relationship with Him.

### **Turn it up a Notch**

You have a chance to be a joy spreader in your life. Spend some time this week thinking about what you can do to spread more joy to everyone with whom you come in contact.

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