

RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP?

There are many things that we do religiously not the least of which is church.

Having been raised in the Church, made to attend whether I wanted to or not; going to church was ingrained in me. Attending church became such a part of my life that everything and everyone functioned around it. The more involved I became in the Work of the Church rather than continuing a life of just Church Work I began to realize something was missing - a relationship with God. Often it is our very commitment and involvement in and to our churches that become detrimental to all our relationships. Home life, work life and eventually our very relationship with the God we seek to serve.

Religion or Relationship which are we practicing?

Religion is the habitual practice of anything whether it is brushing your teeth a certain way, rituals of praying at a certain time or in a certain style etc., etc., etc. Religiousness alone will stifle any relationship. Paul was a very religious man he knew the scriptures even before his encounter with Christ. But one as learned as he missed it and he religiously persecuted Christians and was determined to abolish and destroy them completely.

How did we get to this place where our good intentions seem to work against us leaving a void inside which only Christ can fill? Should we stop what we are doing and focus solely on our individual personal relationships with Christ? What then will happen to the harvest? Are we destined to preach and teach others, but suffer the agonies of loneliness and separation in the process?

Contrary to popular belief being religious is not a bad thing within itself.

2 Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Be on guard always and let nothing separate or distract us from constant pursuit of Him for ourselves.

We know and recite **Proverbs 3:5-6** (Trust in the Lord with all thine heart...) but often skip over verses 3-4 "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: ⁴So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

If we keep Christ close around our "neck" everything we do will be guided by Him and will draw us closer to Him.

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POSTED: AUGUST 2015