

Blocking up the Kingdom Scenery

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SUMMARY:

It has been said that “religion” can be spelled with two letters: D – O! That is that “religion” is a set of instructions for us to DO, that will help us “get right” with God. A genuine relationship with God through Jesus Christ, by the same token is a four letter word: D – O – N – E! All that needs to be done to make us right with the God of this universe was DONE on the cross by Jesus Christ. God gives us commands to follow for certain, but we are to journey together as a loving family knowing that only by living under the control of the Spirit of God can we accomplish what He has commanded us.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question:

1. Has “religion” ever clouded your view of the Kingdom of God? If so, how?
2. There is a very fine line between walking with the expectations that God has for us as His children and the man-made legalism that can creep in. How do you know the difference?
3. In what ways does your own walk with Christ sometimes drift into the realm of man-made legalism?
4. In what ways can you make certain in the future that your walk with Jesus is rooted in Grace and not in legalistic expectations placed on yourself or others?

APPLICATION:

Spend some time this week thinking about the confrontations that Jesus had with the religious leaders. If Jesus were walking at your side now are there any areas in your walk that He would need to remind you of the grace that set you free? Examine your heart for pockets of “expectations” and “conformity guidelines” you may have set subconsciously for others. Pray about how you may be a brighter light for the Kingdom of God --- shining only His glory and not our own set of guidelines for others to follow before they are “good enough” to please God.

On your Own:

Mark 6:1-6; James 1:26; Mark 9:38-40; Acts 17:11; Luke 11:37-54