

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE RULES?

Kissing Religion Goodbye - Part 4

Paul Westbrook

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"If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. [v.27] Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:26,27 (NIV)

Jesus - "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. [v.18] I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. [v.19] Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. [v.20] For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-20 (NIV)

We need to...

1. Distinguish between _____

_____.

"The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and [v.2] saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were 'unclean,' that is, unwashed. [v.3] (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. [v.4] When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) [v.5] So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with unclean hands?" [v.6] He replied, 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. [v.7] They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men. [v.8] You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.'"

Mark 7:1-8 (NIV)

2. Understand the _____.

_____.

"Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified." Galatians 2:16 (NIV)

"But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25 (NIV)

"...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,..." Titus 3:5 (NIV) .

Questions:

1. Am I just going through _____?
_____?
2. Is this rule or routine _____?
_____?
3. Is this rule or routine _____?
_____?
4. Does this rule or routine _____?
_____? _____?
5. Has this rule or routine _____?
_____?