

FROM RELIGION TO RELATIONSHIP...PART I

Focus Text: Deuteronomy 6:5

INTRODUCTION

Many times we fail to see the love of God in an individual because they do not wear the same uniform, his/her's religious protocol is different or he/she has not come into a greater understanding of the Word of God. Relationship with God overrides any religious protocol known to man. Rural, third-world populations may only experience God through nature before death, learning how to live in harmony and love their surroundings. A lesson could be taken from this seeing as how 'religious' people we sometimes fail to live in harmony and love our fellow man. Many times protocol is taught too often without the principle. The objective of this lesson is to 1) distinguish religion from relationship , 2) explore how religious practices arise from biblical principles 3) explore how religious practice and biblical principal intertwine and 4) understand that any religious protocol without relationship is a waste of time.

Tool #1 – Understand that religion is used for structure

1. What does the Word of God say about order? **I Corinthians 14:40, I Corinthians 16:1**
2. Name various leaders that God set over His people.
3. What obligation do we have to those who rule over us? This is extremely important when you are representing an organization i.e. jobs, churches, schools, etc. **Hebrews 13:17**

Tool #2 – Understand the relationship comes from the heart

4. Where should God's law reside? **Romans 2:15, Hebrews 8:10**
5. How do we show our love to God? **John 14:15**

Tool #3 – Understand how religion and relationship intertwine

Not all religious practices are biblical, but most have biblical principals attached to them. Therefore, if the Word of God does not mention a particular religious practice, it is extremely important to discover the principal behind the practice. Below are some religious practices from various Christian organizations. Give possible scriptures for each religious practice.

LESSON 31

MAY 8, 2010
ZIF 24, 5770

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Religious Practice	Scripture - Principle
Women wearing no pants	I Timothy 2:9 – Modest Apparel
Eating no meat	
Wearing no jewelry	
Celebrating no holidays	