

March 15, 2020

RULES/ROUTINE vs RELATIONSHIP

Rules & Routine more than just the 10 commandments

**** There is no carte blanche to ignore rules / commandments**

R&R can be comforting & reassuring – “just follow the dotted line”

Easy to get too smug and self confident in “keeping all the rules”

Can we get too “good & upright” ? Elder son in Luke 15:28

What mistake did he make ? Did the father exemplify Jesus ?

Phil 4:6 “careful for nothing” or “not be too anxious”

Form without substance, just going through the motions ?

Who in the Bible most exemplifies “rules and routine” lifestyles ? ?

The Pharisees check Phil 3:5b – 6 Paul lays it out

Relationship - focus on Jesus only

Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, will give you personal, NOT legal, guidance

Phil 2:12-13 work out your salvation with fear and trembling - doing the right things not to get saved, but because you are saved

Over religiosity springs from a form of pride and one’s right to oneself – visibly keeping the rules so people can “see how good you are”

Do we ever look down on someone else with the thought that we are a “better Christian” than they are - - - based on our “better rule keeping” wrong !

The New Testament is filled with people who came to Jesus without even knowing “rules”

Luke 19 Zacchaeus the tax collector - how did Jesus treat him ?

Luke 13:10-17 The crippled woman who Jesus healed on the Sabbath

Why were the Pharisees so hung up on Jesus doing good works on the Sabbath ? ?

Maybe because they couldn't do it and Jesus doing it clearly moved people to follow Him – a clear threat to the Pharisees superiority and position over the people ?

Luke 18:9-14 Here's a clear contrast Tax Collector vs Pharisee

Who went home with a stronger relationship with God that day ? ?

Luke 11:37-52 Jesus eating at the Pharisee's home

Again, rule keeping held more important than any relationship

Luke 5:36-39 What does this have to do with rules vs relationships ? ?

Old wineskins represent the rigid and somewhat artificial system followed by the Pharisees – New Wine is Jesus' teaching about His Kingdom – the old wineskins could in no way contain the New Wine

So, can we just throw out the commandments ? Matthew 22:34-40 the two greatest commandments on which all the Law and Prophets hang nowhere does it say to throw out all the other commandments, but do you think a person who keeps these two would be able to go around breaking all the others ?

Mark 10:13-16 we need to come to Jesus as little children – what does this mean ? Not in ignorance, but with some childlike qualities like humility, trust and reliance

Mark 7:6-7 Here's an eye opener – once again the Pharisees questioned Jesus priorities = and what did Jesus call them ? ? HYPOCRITES ! who "worship in vain" what a lesson !

Sometimes we put too much emphasis on "experiences" or even "testimonies" this does NOT belittle the value of either, but is just a caution that we can get too competitive about them for the wrong reasons – i. e. being a "better" Christian

We can fool people with our apparent personal "holiness", but we cannot fool God !

If we made two lists of people in the Bible with whom Jesus interacted we might have the following: one list of people who were clearly sinners and openly admitted it – but who were desperate about how to fix and atone for their behavior – Jesus was always warm, positive and helpful towards this group a second list of people who represented themselves as upright and living above the normal "man in the street". who tried to impress others with their behavior and/or experiences – Jesus called them out every time !

Did Jesus say "the rules and rituals and the Way the Truth and the Life ? Or did He say "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life ? The relationship trumps the rules – so instead of a checklist of worldly activities, we need to focus on how to grow our relationship with Jesus – i. e. live out His plan for your life as you grow closer to Him His "scorecard" might be a bit different than we have come to expect ?

