

Losing My Religion 4

Relativity

- We must keep a proper balance of what having a relationship with Him really means because God is spirit and we are fleshly beings. *John 3:6 That which has birth from the flesh is flesh, and that which has birth from the Spirit is spirit.*

- Earthly fathers teach us this balance by supplying our natural needs and teaching us how to behave and observe natural laws and rules.

Prov. 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

- Emotional relationships are relative and based on feelings. This is why we must maintain an absolute relationship with God so it's based on what pleases Him and not what we desire from Him. *1Th. 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*



- Religion is relationship and as long as we abide by what the Word of God states we will remain in fellowship with Him. *1John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

•We cannot separate relationship from Christianity because our walk with Christ is predicated upon how He commands for us to walk. 1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,

and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- Many times we can go so far away from what Christ desires that in order to still claim Him, we tend to change what He expects from us and then blame our struggles on religious legalism. *1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

SOUL WINNING

- Being in relationship with Christ simply means to obey Him and walk in His way rather than our own way. Instead, we must

RELATIONSHIP

sacrifice our fleshly passions and follow after God's will. *Matt. 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

- The world is the world for a reason. They do not want to be with Christ, so why would anyone try to appease the world to reach them? *1John 4:5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*
- The Spirit of God draws the sinner. This means that the heart of a sinner has to desire repentance in order for them to even come to Christ. This also means that no matter how we try to 'present' Christ, we cannot sell Him to an unbelieving heart. They must be persuaded by their own conviction unto repentance. *1John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

SUMMARY

Bad leaders create bad followers. When people grow up under poor leadership in church, they tend to have a negative opinion of Christianity as a whole. They label the Bible as flawed because they grew up with unsound doctrine. Unfortunately, when they suffer at the hands of bad leaders, many will become calloused and discontented with true religion. These actions cause people to seek out false gods and fellowships of hurting people. Instead of living up to the standard of God's Word, they water down the standard and say that they are becoming all things to reach others. Those that gravitate toward this false gospel are never truly converted therefore, they have no desire to live up to God's standard and they are content to glory in their sinfulness and shame. A bad leader can cause those with good intentions to lower the standard of the Bible to conform to their emotional state. We must never change what is written under any circumstances! We should never claim a relationship with Christ without having a true desire to live up to His commandments. God is spirit and if we are to have a genuine relationship with Him, it must be based on spirit AND truth. His Word is truth! If we desire a relationship with God, we must follow the Words of Christ and press toward His mark of what is pleasing to Him.



Phil. 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Phil. 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Phil. 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Phil. 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Phil. 3:16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Phil. 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Phil. 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Phil. 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)