



Part 5: Alt Spirituality

So how do you know you're good with God? How deeply do you have to obey? How often can you mess up? If you blow it, will God give up on you? Will he be mad at you? Will he punish you? These are good questions...but only religious people ask them. Christians ask a whole other set of questions, and Jesus shows us why.

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-18

Bottom Line: The religious obey to earn love. Christians obey because they've been loved.

Discussion Questions

1. What bothers you about religious people you know?
2. Conversely, is there anything about certain people of faith that you admire?
3. What do you think Jesus is bothered by in Matthew 6?
4. Religion either makes you arrogant or insecure. Discuss.
5. The religious obey to earn love. Christians obey because they've been loved.
6. What changes might you make to help your life be less religious and more Gospel-based?
7. What would a quietly obedient, more secure you, look like?

Moving Forward

"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." Tim Keller

Whenever you feel you have to gain God's approval, remember, in Jesus that you already have it. Decelerate your public talk while accelerating your private walk. Give, forgive and love generously and quietly, and your heavenly father who knows what is done in secret, will reward you. Because you don't have to earn love, you are loved.

Changing Your Mind

"When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Matthew 6:7-8 NLT