

Matthew 7:12

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word, "Religion?"

Jesus stood up against the idea that being _____ is more important than being _____

In order to make a point, Jesus didn't hesitate to _____

Jesus lived out His life in such a way that it was _____ to anyone who put their faith in _____

Mark 7:18-19 Deuteronomy 24:1-4 Matthew 5:31-32 Matthew 19:8-9

Exodus 20:9-11 / 17:21-22,27 John 5:8-9 John 5:16-17

Leviticus 13-14 / Matthew 8:3 Matthew 5:17-20

1. Jesus Fulfills _____ Of The Old Testament

The Greek for "accomplish their purpose" = "to _____", or "to _____"

What is the purpose of the Rules and Regulations God gave the Israelite people through Moses?

Galatians 3:19

The Laws primary purpose is to show how _____ we really are

Genesis 2:18-25 - God created us for intimate relationship with himself and with each other

If it's true that a world without religion was God's original design, then it is also true that a world without religion is God's _____

1 Corinthians 13:12

Galatians 3:19 - "...the Law was only designed until the coming of the child who was promised"

Matthew 5:17-20

2. The Righteousness That God Is Looking For Is: _____ Motivated By

The problem with religion is the dependence we develop on outward acts of righteousness that are completely absent of any _____

Matthew 7:12

Jesus lived by a very simple philosophy: If love guides our hearts then _____ become _____

Matthew 22:37-40

Religion and religious people focus so much on obeying the rules that they forget to _____

CONCLUSION

Implications for you and for me...

1. If life has _____, it won't be found through religion, but through relationship

Romans 13:10

2. Relationships based on rules encourage the least amount of _____

3. In loving relationships, law is always _____

4. In this loving relationship with Christ we learn that righteousness...

- Comes from what _____, not what we can do by ourselves
- Results in us being God-centered and others-centered, not _____
- Is based on reverence for God, not _____
- Goes beyond keeping the law to living by the principles behind the law

John 6:28-29

Resources:

NIV, NLT, The New Bible Commentary, The End of Religion by Bruxy Cavey, Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament
A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, The Great Doctrines of the Bible by S. Maxwell
History of the Christian Church by Schaff, Harper's Bible Dictionary, the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church
The New Testament Milieu, The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times by Ralph Gower, Defending Your Faith by Dan Story
Studies in Early Church History by Henry Sell, Outreach Magazine, Verge Network, Missional Network
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