

Religion vs The Gospel

Relationship - Part 2

September 17, 2023

God is not interested in our empty and obligatory religiosity. He has though invited us into a personal, intimate, and loving relationship with Him.

You know who really loves you by who shows up.

Jesus showed up for you.

*“So the Word became **human** and made His **home** among **us**.”* John 1:14 (NLT)

**You’ve created a mess because of your sin.
And God wants to take responsibility for it.**

*“⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸But God showed His **great love** for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were **still** sinners. ⁹And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. ¹⁰For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son. ¹¹So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new **relationship** with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.”* Romans 5:6-11 (NLT)

God doesn’t want a **religion from you.
He wants a **relationship with you**.**

*“¹⁰But those who depend on the law (religion/rules/behavior) to make them right with God are under His curse, for the Scriptures say, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey **all** the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.’ ¹¹So it is clear that **no one** can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, ‘It is through **faith** that a righteous person has life.’ ¹²This way of faith is **very different** from the way of law ... ”* Galatians 3:10-12 (NLT)

*“This Good News (Gospel) tells us **how** God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, ‘It is through **faith** that a righteous person has **life**.’”* Romans 1:17 (NLT)

The Gospel = We are not saved by our good works (religion) but by placing our faith in Jesus and entering into a relationship with Him.

Religion vs The Gospel

<u>Religion</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
About what I do (works)	About what Jesus has done (faith in Him)
"If I obey, God will love me"	"Because God loves me, I get to obey"
Motivated by fear or insecurity	Motivated by humble gratitude
Ends in pride or despair	Ends in humble joy
Good people and bad people	Repentant and unrepentant people
Values a birth family	Values a new birth
Goal is to get from God	Goal is to get God
God is punishing me	God is working to grow my faith
Appearing as a good person is key	Being honest is key
Uncertainty standing before God	Certainty based upon Jesus' work

Which path are you on?

A religion of works?

A relationship through faith?

Neither?