

GOD-PLEASING SPIRITUALITY

A Biblical Perspective

Matthew 15:8-11, Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 2:8, 16-17, 20-23

Spirituality is measured by character and obedience to Scripture – not by our adherence to man-made rules and traditions.

Don't change the recipe!

Proverbs 30:5-6, Galatians 3:1-3

Sometimes adding a little extra just makes things worse.

What we have in Christ

Colossians 2:9-15, John 19:30, 1 John 2:3-5

Everything has been paid for.

Our job is to simply follow and obey.

Spiritual additives that will ruin your faith

Intellectual Arrogance.

Colossians 2:4-8, 1 Timothy 1:6-7, 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

Ceremonial Christianity.

Colossians 2:16-17, Galatians 3:1-3 & 4:9-11

Inner Peace.

Colossians 2:18-19, 1 Corinthians 4:4, Proverbs 14:12

Extra-Biblical Rules.

Colossians 2:20-23, Matthew 23:2-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-6, Proverbs 30:5-6

Food for Thought

For the week of Oct 14, 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for Life group study)

Review the questions below before your group meets.

MY STORY

1. We all have different tendencies when it comes to rules and guidelines. Would you tend to be a rule maker or a rule breaker? Has it changed over the years? How is this different or the same from the home you grew up in?

2. What does baptism mean to you? How is it an act of obedience to Christ? What have been some of the barriers that hold people back from taking this next step?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. A man-made rule may actually begin with a verse and personal application that is helpful at the time. The problem occurs when we expect others to live by it also. Below are a number of verses that contain some important truths to help us live a healthy Christian life. As you read each one, write down the truth it speaks of, how you might apply it in your own life and a legalistic rule or expectation that could be put on others.

Psalm 119:11

Truth:

Application:

Legalistic rule:

Philippians 4:8

Truth:

Application:

Legalistic rule:

Colossians 4:2

Truth:

Application:

Legalistic rule:

Hebrews 10:25

Truth:

Application:

Legalistic rule:

Good intentions can easily be the mantra for the legalist, causing them to miss the check and balance of what Scripture really says and what God wants. How do the following verses help us understand the purpose of God's directives and not become legalistic?

Psalms 1:1-3

Psalms 19:7-11

Matthew 22:34-40

Fall Life Groups

Our Life Groups help promote spiritual growth and maturity in the Real Life community through the development of significant Christian relationships centered on the study of God's word. (Hebrews 10:24-25 & Romans 8:29)

SHARING Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned "sharing questions". But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

STUDY Each week we'll study a portion of God's word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

SUPPORT Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (see John 15:9-13). This care will take many forms such as prayer, listening, meeting needs, encouraging and even challenging one another as needed. We also have ongoing Bible Studies available at Real Life: See the calendar at www.seekreallife.com for details.

Prayer requests: