

BECAUSE OF YOU



1. THE RELIGIOUS DESCRIBED. Vs. 17-20

“But if you bear the name ‘Jew,’ and rely upon the Law, and boast in God, and know His will, and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth.”

2. THE RELIGION WHICH DISGUSTS. Vs. 21-24

“You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one should not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? For ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,’ just as it is written.”

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James 1:22

“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.” James 3:1

**“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.”
James 3:17**

“Therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.” Matt. 23:3

Religion becomes disgusting when:

It is hypocritical.

It causes others to blaspheme God.

It blocks others from coming to God.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.” Matt. 23:25, 27

3. THE RELIGION WHICH IS PRECIOUS. Vs. 25-29

“For indeed circumcision is of value, if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. If therefore the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?” vs. 25-26

“And will not he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law?” vs. 27

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.” vs. 28-29

How might I become more genuine and sincere in my religious devotion?

- 1. Study the Scriptures and apply to myself first.**
- 2. Learn to be transparent in asking for prayer concerning my own weaknesses.**
- 3. Seek the Lord's approval even if it means the disapproval of others.**

4. Admit that you don't have the answers to some questions and some issues.

5. Ask the Lord to examine your own heart.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” Ps. 139:23

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