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|  |  | Pastor Chris Brown  July 19-20, 2025  Message #13 / Matthew 6:1-18 |
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**Was Jesus Really Against Religion?**

**Breaking bad religion from the inside out:**

Matthew 6:1-18, Acts 5:1-8, 1 Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 4:23, Romans 15:26-27, 1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Relationship: John 3:3-18, Romans 6:23, 1 John 4:7-19, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 8:3, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Galatians 2:20

Jesus assumes His followers will be **GIVING**, **PRAYING** and **FASTING**.

Defining religion versus relationship:

Religion is checking off the **RIGHT BOXES** to get **RIGHT** with God.

Religious motives tend to make us **LOOK BETTER** and **FEEL BETTER**.

Relationship is a **RESPONSE** from the **HEART** because of how God **CHECKED** all the **BOXES** for us.

**How a great example becomes a lousy prayer:**

Matthew 6:5-15, James 4:2-3, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Colossians 3:12-14

The Lord’s Prayer is a **HOW**, not a **WHAT**.

It is a **PATTERN** to follow, not a **PRAYER** to recite.

It is an example of how to:

**CONNECT** with God, not how to **INFORM** Him.

Get our **HEARTS** right, not our **WORDS** right.

Focus on whose **WILL** and **AGENDA** gets daily priority.

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Jesus assumes His followers will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Defining religion versus relationship:

Religion is checking off the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Religious motives tend to make us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Relationship is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because of how God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us.

**How a great example becomes a lousy prayer:**

Matthew 6:5-15, James 4:2-3, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Colossians 3:12-14

The Lord’s Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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It is an example of how to:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God, not how to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Get our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ right, not our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ right.

Focus on whose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gets daily priority.