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|  |  | Pastor Chris BrownJuly 19-20, 2025Message #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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

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

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

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