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Messed Up Religion
Romans 2:17-29

We're all messed up:

Romans 3:23 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- God starts with the messed up (Rom 1:1-12)
- The gospel frees up the messed up (Rom 1:13-17)
- But judging others is messed up (Rom 1:18-2:4)

Have you ever experienced messed up religion?

I. The Problem of Messed Up Religion:

1. Trusts in _____ instead of _____.

Romans 2:17-24 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; ¹⁸if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; ¹⁹if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—²¹you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²²You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

A. Results in _____

B. Results in _____

2. Focuses on _____ instead of _____.

Romans 2:25-27 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. ²⁶So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? ²⁷The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

II. The Solution to Messed Up Religion: _____

Romans 2:28-29 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. What's the strangest thing you've ever heard of somebody doing in the name of religion?
2. Have you ever been messed up by religion?
3. Has someone ever negatively affected your impression of Christianity because they acted superior? Were hypocritical?
4. Have you ever attempted to modify your outward behavior without changing the heart? What happened?
5. What is it about Jesus that separates him from regular religion?
6. What would happen if you allowed God to have access to your heart—including its dirty, dark closets? What would happen if you paused to ask yourself why you do what you do—and listened to what the Holy Spirit wants to clean up?



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email krisbeckert@thevineva.org or call 215-237-4959 to set up an appointment.