

April 25, 2010

Ambassador To:

A Religious Person Controlled by Rules, Fear, and Appearances, With No Relationship with God
Luke 11:37-54

The Characters

- Jesus
- The Pharisees
- The Teachers of the Law

Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.”

Mark 7:6-7 “He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”’”

1 Sam. 16:7 “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

Ps. 51:16-17 “You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

10 Problems with Pharisiasm

- 1 New laws continually need to be invented for new situations.
- 2 Accountability to God is replaced by accountability to men.
- 3 It reduces a person's ability to personally discern.
- 4 It creates a judgmental spirit.
- 5 It confuses personal preferences with divine law.
- 6 It produces inconsistencies.
- 7 It creates a false standard of righteousness.
- 8 It becomes a burden to those who are set free.
- 9 It is strictly external.
- 10 It is rejected by Christ.

And here's a bonus:

- 11- It keeps people from true knowledge of God.

How To React to Pharisiasm

We must:

- 1) Understand our own tendency toward empty ritual and tradition
- 2) Fight VIOLENTLY against it when we see it
- 3) Decide how we will respond when others point out our legalism
- 4) Remind ourselves constantly what GRACE is all about