

The Danger of Being Religious (Part One)

Series – *Authentic: Real Faith That Fits Real Life*

– Matthew 23:13-15 –

1. A Self-Serving View of God's Kingdom

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.” (vs. 13)

2. A Self-Serving View of God's People

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.” (vs. 15)

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. The sermon this week suggested that *self-salvation* was the underlying problem of the scribes & Pharisees. Would you agree or disagree? Where have you recognized this pattern in your own life?
3. What are some common “religious rules” that go beyond Scripture and distract people from God’s mission of grace?
4. Why do Christians tolerate legalism and often even see it as a virtue rather than a serious sin?
5. Is it hypocritical or legalistic to obey God when we don’t feel like it? Why or why not?
6. When you are able to stop and take a good at your inner life, is there more than Sunday meeting paint? As you reflect on the state of your inner life, what are you sensing that God wants to change?

