

## Religion vs Relationship

**Religion tends to be human directed. Following the Way is God directed.**

**Slide 3&4.** [Num 15:37-39 KJV] 37 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: 39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

**Slide 5.** [Num 15:39 NKJV] 39 "And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you [may] not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined,

**Slide 6.** Polls in 2019 say about 75% of the US Population are religious. 329 million. (Today 334 million and 8 billion in the world)

Atheists – 4% of approximately 255,241,278 or around 10 million Americans (Mostly young men, over three quarters are white, just less than half have college degrees)

Agnostics – 5% or 12.75 million

Michael Lipka (the Pew) - Atheists may not believe religious teachings, but they are quite informed about religion. In Pew Research Center's 2019 religious knowledge survey, atheists were among the best-performing groups, answering an average of about 18 out of 32 fact-based questions correctly, while U.S. adults overall got an average of roughly 14 questions right. Atheists were at least as knowledgeable as Christians on Christianity-related questions – roughly eight-in-ten in both groups, for example, know that Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus – and they were also twice as likely as Americans overall to know that the U.S. Constitution says “no religious test” shall be necessary to hold public office.

**Religion does not come from God and cannot help you in any way before God**

[Col 2:20-22 KJV] 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

**Slide 7.** [Col 2:23 KJV] 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

[Col 2:23 NKJV] 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, [false] humility, and neglect of the body, [but are] of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

**Slide 8&9.** [2Pe 1:2-4 KJV] 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

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**Religion without Relationship is useless. It takes a relationship with Jesus to help others and keep yourself pure. Impossible through human efforts**

**Slide 10.** [Jas 1:26-27 KJV] 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion [is] vain. 27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Charles Spurgeon: He who cannot calmly leave his affairs in God's hand, but will carry his own burden, is very likely to be tempted to use wrong means to help himself. This sin leads to a forsaking of God as our counsellor, and resorting instead to human wisdom.

## Developing Your Relationship with God

### Pure Prayer

**Slide 11.** [Job 16:17 KJV] 17 Not for [any] injustice in mine hands: also my prayer [is] pure.

Pray to God only, pray expecting an answer, pray in faith, pray according to the will of God. Don't use vain repetitions (empty words or babbling)

**Slide 12.** [Mat 21:22 KJV] 22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive.

**Slide 13.** [1Co 14:13-15 KJV] 13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

### Don't avoid prayer when the walls are crumbling around you

**Slide 14.** [Dan 9:13 KJV] 13 As [it is] written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

**Slide 15.** NLT 13 Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the Lord our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth.

### Pray often

**Slide 16.** [Act 6:4 KJV] 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

[Rom 12:12 KJV] 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

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[Eph 6:18 KJV] 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

[Phi 1:4 KJV] 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

### Meditate on God's Word, His laws, and His ways

**Slide 17.** Defined: think deeply or carefully about (something). Focusing your attention. focusing the mind on a particular object, thought, or activity – to train attention and awareness, and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state.

#### God's people practiced meditation

Hebrew Suah – Soo-akh to meditate, muse, commune

**Slide 18.** [Gen 24:63 KJV] 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels [were] coming.

Haga – haw-gaw t o moan, growl, utter, muse, mutter, meditate, devise, plot, speak

**Slide 19.** [Jos 1:8 KJV] 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

[Psa 1:2 KJV] 2 But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

[Psa 63:6 KJV] 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, [and] meditate on thee in the [night] watches.

[Psa 77:12 KJV] 12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

śiah (see-akh) to put forth, mediate, muse, commune, speak, complain, ponder, sing

**Slide 20.** [Psa 119:15, 23, 48, 78, 148 KJV] 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. ... 23 Princes also did sit [and] speak against me: [but] thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. ... 48 My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes. ... 78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: [but] I will meditate in thy precepts. ... 148 Mine eyes prevent the [night] watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

[Psa 143:5 KJV] 5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

#### Meletaō

**Slide 21.** [1Ti 4:15 KJV] 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

### Reading and Hearing God's Word

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**Slide 21.** [Rom 10:17 KJV] 17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

[2Ti 3:16-17 KJV] 16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

### Worship God at home and at Church

Adrian Rogers: With our bodies, we know the world beneath us. With our souls, we know the world around us. But with our spirits, we know the world above us. Only people are created in the image of God.

**Slide 22.** [Jhn 4:24 KJV] 24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

**Slide 23.** [Phl 3:3 KJV] 3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

### Grow in your Faith, Learn to trust God More and More

[Rom 12:3 KJV] 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**Slide 24.** [2Co 10:15 KJV] 15 Not boasting of things without [our] measure, [that is], of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,

**Slide 25.** [Col 2:7-8 KJV] 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

[Col 2:7-8 NLT] 7 Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. 8 Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

[2Pe 1:5-10 KJV] 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: