

Snapshots of Jesus
Religion vs. Relationship part 1
8-03-08

Mark 2:13 – 3:6

Jesus' Conflict with the Religious Leaders:

1) Conflict over who Jesus associated with. (We'll look at this next weekend)

2) Conflict over fasting. (Mark 2:18-22)

The root of the conflict was over two different ways to relate to God: Jesus' emphasis is on relating personally to God in a relationship vs. Religion's emphasis on relating to God impersonally through ritual observance.

c.f. Jer. 31:31-34

3) Conflict over the Sabbath (Mark 2:23 - 3:6)

The root of the conflict was over Jesus' ethical priorities ("majoring in majors") vs. Religion's reversed ethical priorities ("majoring in minors").

c.f. Matt. 23:23-26 & Luke 11:39-44

Terms Defined:

Legalism:

"...seeking to achieve forgiveness from God, justification before God and acceptance by God through our obedience to God." – CJ Mahaney

Legalism: substituting my "good works" for His finished work.

Legalism is self-atonement. Legalism is my attempt to atone for my sins.

"Legalism has its origin in self-worship. If people are justified through their obedience to the law, then they merit praise, honor and glory. Legalism, in other words, means the glory goes to people rather than God. The desire to obey the law, thought it appears commendable, is actually an insidious way to try to gain recognition before God."

- Thomas Schreiner

Justification: is being declared righteous with Christ righteousness. It is a legal / a judicial act. It is a declaration by God. Justification is our

position before God. Justification is immediate and complete upon conversion.

"Justification is an act. It is not a work, or a series of acts. It is not progressive. The weakest believer and the strongest saint are alike equally justified. Justification admits no degrees. A man is wholly justified or wholly condemned in the sight of God." -William Plummer

Sanctification: is a process of being made right. It is God's work in us, conforming us to the image of God's son. Sanctification is our practice before God – His work in us.