

Dangers of No Love Religion

Mark 7:1-7

The Pharisees:

- Were the most highly respected religious sect in Israel.
- They spiritually and religiously governed the people.

The Scribes :

- “were the official interpreters of the Mosaic law and the guardians of its sanctity.” (*D. Edmond Heibert*)

The relationship between the two:

- Much of what the Pharisees taught and insisted on was based on the interpretations handed down by the Scribes.

Mark 7 is a stunning picture of the confrontation between the self-righteousness of the human heart and the servant-heart of the Son of God.

It is a contrast between empty religion and eternal truth, and between hypocrisy and humility.

Three dangers of religion without love;
A false religion based on the wisdom (teachings) of man

I. Religious Knowledge Without Love

Pride in what I know

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- Romans 10:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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“Write down in your imagination or on a sheet of paper, a row of zeros. Keep adding until you have filled a whole line on the page. What do they add up to? Exactly nothing! Even if you were to write a thousand of them, they would still be nothing. But put a positive number in front of them and immediately they have value.”

I. Religious Knowledge Without Love

Pride in what I know

“This is the way it is with our gifts and faith and zeal. They are the zeros on the page. Without love they count for nothing. but put love in front of them and immediately they have value. And just as the number two gives more value to a number of zeros than the number one does, so more and more love can add exponentially greater value to our gifts.” *(Jerry Bridges)*

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- 1 Corinthians 8:1-3
- What was the payoff in all of this?

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Payoff: Knowledge is power.

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