

Religion Replaces Relationship

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 2nd, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Samuel said, “Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

~1st Samuel 15:22 (NASB)

1) Hopelessly Religious People

- A) Despite God’s miraculous work in our lives (e.g. Exodus 7:14-11:10, 12:29-41; Matthew 10 -- note Judas Iscariot), when we experience fear from change (e.g. Exodus 14:10-12) or disillusionment with change (e.g. Matthew 26:1-16), we tend to return to traditions rather than trust God (e.g. Luke 15:25-32 -- note older brother).
- B) One of the mega-themes of the Bible is mankind’s habit (including you and me) to create and follow religious traditions rather than seek genuine experiential relationship with God/Christ/Holy Spirit (1st Samuel 15:22).

2) Our Only Hope Is Relationship With Jesus Christ

- A) Knowing this, Jesus was sent to be “God in the flesh” (John 1:1, 14). It is VERY notable that the first chapters of the Gospel of John all replace religious traditions with a true relationship with Jesus Christ!
- B) Communion is designed to remind us of the life and death of Jesus Christ (1st Corinthians 11:24-25). It’s about relationship! Remember our relationship with Jesus today!