

The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

True and False Religion

1 Samuel 4:1



The Truth

**All the positive confession in the world will
not overcome covenant breaking.**



The Truth

Jesus did not have a religious bone
in his body?



The Truth

Three Kinds of Religion

1. Useless religion
2. Undefined religion
3. Self-imposed religion



The Truth

Useless Religion

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's *religion is useless.*



The Truth

Undefined Religion

James 1:27 Pure and *undefiled religion* before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. [But the best way to help the poor is not with government goodies. Free enterprise is the way. Socialism gives someone else's money to the poor and results in more poverty. Socialism is self-imposed religion.]



The Truth

Self-imposed Religion

Colossians 2:23 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.



The Truth

To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice

Then Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great 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. (1 Samuel 15:22)



The Truth

Heart Circumcision

Jeremiah 4:4 *Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your hearts, you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, lest My fury come forth like fire, and burn so that no one can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.”*



The Truth

Ear Circumcision

Jeremiah 6:10 *To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it.*



The Truth

Hearts – Not Garments

Joel 2:12-14 “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him...?



The Truth

Visible Church and Invisible Church

1. The visible church are apparent Christians.
2. The invisible church are real Christians.



The Truth

Sacrifice and the Knowledge of God

Hosea 6:6 *For I desire mercy and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God more than burnt
offerings.*



The Truth

Isaiah 1:12-15

Bring no more futile sacrifices;
“Come now, and let us reason together,”
says the LORD.



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