

## Don't let the ritual replace the reality

**Every action in life is a ritual** - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, DO IT ALL** for the glory of God.

**What happens when we go through the motions without meaning** - Isa 1:10-14 -10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah! 11 "The multitude of your sacrifices — what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. 12 When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? 13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations — I cannot bear your **evil assemblies.** 14 Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

**Rituals represent something real** - Col 2:16-17 - 16 Therefore **do not let anyone judge you by** what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are A SHADOW of the things that were to come; THE REALITY, however, is found IN CHRIST.

**Purpose means everything and our purpose must be God** - Matt 6:1-8 - "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, **to be honored by men.** I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

<u>Ritual</u>	<u>Reality</u>	<u>Some Scripture</u>
<b>Going to Church</b>	To Hear the message <u>from God</u> and mature with others in the body.	Ecc 5:1 - Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. <b>Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools,</b> who do not know that they do wrong.  Eph 4:12-13 -12 to prepare God's people for works of service, <b>so that</b> the body of Christ may be <u>built up</u> 13 <u>until</u> we all <u>reach</u> unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and <u>become mature,</u> attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
<b>Reading the Bible</b>	To know Christ & fully equip man.	John 5:39-40 - 39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. <u>These are the Scriptures that testify about me,</u> 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.  2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 <b>All Scripture</b> is God-breathed and is useful for <u>teaching, rebuking, correcting and training</u> in righteousness, 17 so that the <b>man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.</b>
<b>Praying</b>	To talk to our Father in Heaven.	Phil 4:6-7 - 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but <b>in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.</b> 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
<b>Communication</b>	Working to see where someone is coming from and for you to present the way for them to see while checking self with God .	James 1:19-20 -19 My dear brothers, <b>take note of this:</b> Everyone should be <u>quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,</u> 20 for <b>MAN'S ANGER DOES NOT BRING ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS LIFE THAT GOD DESIRES.</b>  Matt 7:3-5 - 3 "Why do you <u>look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?</u> 4 How can you say to your brother, ' <u>Let me take the speck out of your eye,</u> ' when all the time <u>there is a plank in your own eye?</u> 5 You hypocrite, <u>first take the plank out of your own eye,</u> and <b>THEN</b> you will see clearly to remove the speck from <u>your brother's eye.</u>
<b>Communion</b>	To remember Christ gave his body and shed his blood for us.	1 Cor 11:23-27 - 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, <u>took bread,</u> 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and <u>said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."</u> 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, " <u>This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.</u> " 26 For <u>whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.</u> 27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or <b>drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.</b>
<b>Giving</b>	Recognizing our true provider	2 Cor 9:6-8 -6 Remember this: <u>Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.</u> 7 <u>Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,</u> for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

<p><b>Marriage</b></p>	<p>A sacred practice, where one man and one woman come together to make one person representing Christ and the Church.</p>	<p>Matt 19:4-6 - 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator '<u>made them male and female,</u>' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and <b>the two will become one flesh</b>?' 6 So they are <u>no longer two, but one.</u> Therefore <u>what God has joined together, let man not separate.</u>"</p> <p>Matt 19:9-12 -9 I tell you that <u>anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.</u>" 10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." 11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. 12 For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. <u>The one who can accept this should accept it.</u>"</p> <p>Eph 5:21-33 - 21 <u>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.</u> 22 <u>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.</u> 23 For the <u>husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church,</u> his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 <u>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church</u> and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 <u>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.</u> He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 <b>THIS IS A PROFOUND MYSTERY — BUT I AM TALKING ABOUT CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.</b> 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.</p>
<p><b>Worship</b></p>	<p>To praise and Adore the one and only God the way that truly worships.</p>	<p>Matt 15:6-9 - 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 <u>"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."</u></p> <p>John 4:23-24 - 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the <u>true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,</u> for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers <u>must worship in spirit and in truth.</u>"</p>
<p><b>Making a Living</b></p>	<p>Live trusting in God as "The Source" and recognizing everything else as a potential resource.</p>	<p>Matt 6:24-25 - 24 <u>"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.</u> 25 <b>"THEREFORE</b> I tell you, <b>DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR LIFE,</b> what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?</p> <p>Matt 6:31-34 31 <u>So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'</u> 32 For the <u>pagans run after all these things,</u> and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But <b>SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,</b> and <b>all these things will be given to you as well.</b> 34 Therefore <u>do not worry about tomorrow,</u> for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.</p>

**We must fully give ourselves to God the way God says to give ourselves to God** - Rom 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Relationship with Christ to stay in Reality**

**Go to Christ and Learn from Him** - Matt 11:28-30 - 28 "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,** and I will give you rest. 29 **Take my yoke upon you** and **learn from me,** for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Stay in Christ and keep the Word in you** - John 15:7-8 - 7 If you remain in me and **my words remain in you,** ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**We Must train ourselves to live purposefully** - 1 Cor 9:25-27 - 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, **I beat my body and make it my slave** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.