

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angles nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 8:38-39

Sunday, January 29, 2017

A Conflict of Interest

A situation in which the concerns or goals of two parties are incompatible

Romans 7:15-18

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 and if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. (Paul is saying I'm the reason there is a law against things.)

17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

What we naturally want is in conflict with what we ultimately want.

Nature is a good picture of this, no grace, no compassion. A sick horse will be chased off the food by the rest – survival of the fittest. A video which has been circulating shows a well-meaning family catching a little mouse and taking it outside to release into the wild. They no sooner release the mouse, when a hawk swoops down and grabs the mouse in front of all them including their kids. On Shark Week, the Snuffy the Seal promo – “It’s a bad week to be a seal, but for the rest of us it’s pretty awesome!”

Religion is my attempt to work my way into a relationship with God.

If I follow the rules, God will like me...

Problem – most of the rules I came up with myself, my interpretation of what the bible says, or what our parents say are the most important.

We have our own list of what is important and what is not.

If rules are the way to a relationship with God, we are in trouble. Cause we can't agree on what the important rules are. I bet the Top Five for me will be different from yours.

Rules ultimately get used to hurt other people or avoid our responsibility in an attempt to make God like us more.

Illustration: Pharisees Corban, dedicate their money to God and use that as an excuse for not taking care of parents or poor people.

...Religion and Relationship are at opposite ends of the spectrum.

Performance based religion destroys relationship with God.

Illustrations: Jobs are based on performance, they may like you but if you don't produce your gone. In sports they will cheer you today and boo you tomorrow.

Our tendency is to drift back to performance based religion, because everything else in life is graded that way, but God thinks differently.

Romans 8:1-4 1Therefore, there is now (right now, at this very moment) ***no condemnation for*** ... those who keep the rules, those who try hard to right, those who are doing their best... ***those who are in Christ Jesus*** – this means that when you become a Christian, you are uncondemnable – nothing can come between you and God, not even your sin.

Condemnation and consequences are two different things. Are there consequences for sin, YES. Is there condemnation for Christians, NO.

Webster's definition of Condemn – to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation.

2 because through Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Oh! That clears it up!) There are two laws (systems) at work here and they both co-exist at the same time but one overpowers the other one.

Law of the Spirit of Life – you're always IN based on what Jesus did, not on what you have done or are going to do.

Law of Sin and Death – cause and effect – you sin, you die, and you get what you deserve. We spend our lives under this law.

Illustration: I can't make a rock stay in the air because of the law of gravity, but a 747 can take off at just under a million pounds because of the law of aerodynamics – one law overpowers the other one.

3 For what the law (trying to do your best) ***was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man.*** (God does not condemn us he condemns sin)

Keeping the rules does not get you saved and it doesn't keep you in good graces with God.

What we could not do, God did.

God wants us to view ourselves through his lens.

4 In order that the righteous requirements of the law (the law requires perfection) ***might be fully meet in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.***

This morning we have an opportunity through what Jesus has done for us, to live according to cause and effect (God loves me if I perform) or to accept what Jesus did and live uncondemnable,

Maybe this morning you don't know where you stand with God, you're trying to do it right but you fail more than you succeed.