

Here are some reflections I have revived from the Holy Spirit during my prayer times. If you find value - then give glory to God, if you find any errors then they will be mine. Rob

1Jn 4:12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1Jn 4:13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

1Jn 4:15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

God wants a relationship with us.

God is not legalistic

People are legalistic

Legalism is the opposite of relationship.

Satan lies that God is legalistic to trap people

Satan led man to fall by suggesting a legalistic loophole - "Did God really say ..." which I shall paraphrase as "were those His EXACT words" moving Eve's thinking away from what was God's intent - a relationship question - to the words spoken by God - a legalistic question that moves away from trusting God (relationship) and allows an opening for the next statement from Satan "You will not certainly die ..."

Since then ...

People seek legalism as it is safe and limited - once I have done what legalism requires I am free to be my own boss

People prefer legalism as it is easier than having a relationship with God

Relationships take effort, are unpredictable, take up our time, involve sacrifice of self,

God requires relationships - that begin with humility - confessing our sin, need, complete inability to save ourselves and complete dependence on God

Legalism does not require humility, in fact it breeds pride. Legalism claims we are able to save ourselves and limits or removes dependence on God.

Relationship involves communication with God and takes emotional energy. There is no constraining the time relationship needs and the energy required - it demands we grow and allow God to change us - it is not fixed or static.

Legalism does not require real communication and is a lazier way as it limits the energy we need to spend on God.

Relationship is adventurous, and can be unpredictable and requires trust.

Legalism is constrained, predictable, does not trust (we only have contacts because we don't trust the other person). Legalism fights against change and anything new.

Legalism pushes people away from God, God seeks relationship to bring people close to Himself

Relationship has no limit to our obligation

Legalism tries to tie down our obligation to God and put God in a box we can control.

Relationship requires putting self second, in fact putting self to death - crucifying self and holding loosely onto my time and resources.

Legalism puts self first - is selfish - considers my time and resources to be MY time and MY resources and feeds and sustains self.

Relationship requires a big loving God

Legalism only requires a small disinterested God.

It is only in real relationship with God that we can experience real peace, love, and joy.

God knows that we need a relationship with Him to be all He has made us to be. Perhaps that is why God demands relationship with us and not legalism.

Perhaps also this is why God does not just take away the old self - He is not going to give us a magic bullet to remove our desire to sin. If He did it would be like a magic pill, we would no longer desire to sin, but we would also not need that continuing closeness and dependence on God's power to overcome.

Victory comes not from our effort or a once off prayer, but by being constantly connected to Him.

Legalism is dead and has no power, relationship is alive and has power.

Joh 15:4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Joh 15:6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers ...

I say relationship is better. I chose the higher way of relationship with God, not the low mean way of legalism.

So whenever we find ourselves praying just because we are supposed to have a quiet time, or doing some other Christian service as a duty, we should ask ourselves, am I doing this because of my relationship with God or because I fear He will be annoyed if I don't

Father forgive me when I doubt and get legalistic.

Father help me to not be lazy and fall back into legalism as this is my natural tendency.

Father I am dependent on you in this also.

(Scripture from NIV)