

Volume 2 – Day 18: Obedience to the Spirit, not to Religion

For most of my life I was devoted to my church because I strongly believed that my church believed in God and interpreted the Scriptures correctly. I later discovered that many things I had been taught as Biblical truth were only the doctrines and dogma of my particular religion. It was as though we lived by the letter of the law and believed that it was also the spirit of the law.

When confronted with Jesus' words to the Pharisees, "Why do you use your rules to play fast and loose with God's commands? God clearly says, 'Respect your father and mother' and, 'Anyone denouncing father or mother should be killed.' But you weasel around that by saying, 'Whoever wants to, can say to father and mother, What I owed to you I have given to God.' That can hardly be called respecting a parent . . . Frauds! Isaiah's prophecy of you hit the bull's-eye: These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their heart isn't in it. They act like they're worshipping Me, but they don't mean it. They just use Me as a cover for teaching whatever suits their fancy." — Matthew 15:3-9 MSG,

I was forced to rethink most of what I believed. I had heard and preached many sermons about the 10 Commandments as rules for good relationships. But, somehow that had not helped me to be better in relationship to others. I started paying attention to how my motives either helped or hindered relationship. **When I truly love another person, my actions will be in compliance with God's laws as well.**

Many Christians who have been extremely devoted to their convictions are relationally mean and destructive. God **is** Love. His love alone solves broken relationships. His love enables us to love even those who have treated us abusively.

My Confirming Scriptures:

My Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan