

Form Without Function is Dead Religion
Isaiah 1:10-20

I. Our spiritual practices have both _____ and _____ .

- A. A form is a practice or something we do to enhance or express spirituality (prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, Communion).
- B. The function is the meaning or purpose of the form (why we do it).
- C. If you practice form without function the form loses _____ .
 - 1. Jesus quoted Isaiah about this (Matthew 15:8)

II. God gave Israel forms to guide their spiritual lives.

- A. The sacrificial system and feasts were forms.
 - 1. The function of sacrifices was to remind them...
 - 2. The function of feasts was to remind them...
- B. God says their sacrifices are _____, their feasts a burden.
 - 1. He won't even listen to their prayers. Why?
 - 2. These practices were meant to express _____ to God.
 - (a) Covenant was about a loving relationship with God (Deut.6:4-6).
 - (b) But Judah had turned away from God (Isaiah 1:4).
 - (c) They had rebelled (Isaiah 1:2-3).
- C. How they were living made the sacrifices/feasts meaningless, offensive.

III. God has given us forms also to express and deepen our love for him.

- A. We need to be mindful of _____ we are doing them.
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. Bible study
 - 3. Church attendance
- B. The Lord's Supper. The form is the breaking of bread, sharing the cup.
 - 1. "Do this in remembrance of me." The function is to remind us.
 - (a) Of what Jesus did. Of grace. Of a new covenant (vertical & horizontal)
 - 2. The Israelites were spiritually wounded by their sin (Isaiah 1:5-6).
 - (a) But healing is found in the _____ of Jesus (Isaiah 53:5)
 - (b) We humbly remember that, and we respond with devotion.
 - (c) Communion is a _____ of our commitment to follow Jesus!