

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, January 14, 2018
R U Sanctified or Sanctimonious?
1: Do You Love Sinners?

TEXT: Luke 12:1-2 / Hebrews 10:10

Religion is a man-made form of attempting to please God through a series of rituals and good works. When we study the subject of sanctification, holiness, purity, etc. we tend to look for law, not relationships. We become Pharisees, ignoring our own fallibility and denying the value of other people. Before we go further in our discussion of personal purity, let's take the vaccination against pharisaism.

Sanctified: set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use : consecrated; freed from sin; purified.

Sanctimonious: making a hypocritical show of religious devotion, piety, righteousness, etc.:

Which are you? Jesus died for sinners. Pharisees despised them.

- 1) Luke 15:1-7. God values people
 - a) Pharisees get mad when we hang out with broken humanity
 - i) You can measure your Pharisee quotient by how you reach out to new folks – break out of comfort into Jesus.
 - ii) Religion likes to covey up with others who reinforce their sense of being “special.”
 - b) Jesus, the Father, and the angels are rejoicing when one person repents.
 - c) **If you came here today without Christ, you are the most important person in the room.**
- 2) Luke 5:27-32. Jesus looks past your actions, your history, your family, and your status to see who you are.
 - a) Compare Lk 5:27 with Matt 9:9. Jesus saw a man named Matthew, the gift of God. He saw the gift in the publican.
 - b) Religious folks grumble when we treat sinners like human beings. Matt 9:11 Religion recognizes your sin, not their own. Jesus says “I came to call sinners to repentance.”
 - i) Repentance= metanoia - a change of mind (heart) to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider.
 - ii) **The danger of religious self-righteousness is it keeps people from finding a place of true repentance because they feel they are already on the right track.**
 - c) 1 Corinthians 12:21-22 / 1 Peter 4:10. There is a necessary gift sitting on either side of you.

- d) **The Pharisee in you wants others to acknowledge how special you are. The Jesus in you is moved by the grace in them.**
- 3) Luke 19:1-10 Hunger, not religion, gets Jesus' attention.
 - a) Zacchaeus was a rich man, though widely despised because of his job. He had an abundance in the natural, but he had a hunger to see who this Jesus was. **A hunger to know Jesus will make us willing to do things we would otherwise not do.** Tree-climbing, crowd-pushing, money-giving hunger, not to be accepted in a religious organization, but to see who Jesus is.
 - b) Jesus called him by name (Zacchaeus means *pure*)- Christianity is a personal thing. He knows your name. He knows your past, He knows your heart, and He knows your future. He speaks your name with a love so intense as to melt the hardest heart.
 - c) “I **must** stay at your house.” He will pass over crowds of on-lookers to visit the heart of those who hunger to know Him.
 - d) The religious crowd got mad when Jesus came to Zacchaeus' house. (Notice how often religious people complain)
 - e) Zacchaeus conversion fruit Giving - a sure sign of revival, restitution and reconciliation. a lack of bitterness toward the crowd who despised him.
 - f) Verse 10. The prime directive - Seek and save the lost:
 - i) We are all already lost. Jesus came on a rescue mission
 - ii) Seek: zealously look for. Do it on purpose with passion
 - iii) Save is sozo – rescue, deliver, and heal
 - iv) Lost = perishing, separated from where they should be, destroyed, defaced.
 - g) In the fall we lost: Health, Family, Finances, Peace, Purpose, Hope, and most of all Intimacy with God – Jesus bypassed the religious to visit the publican. If you are ready to climb a tree, Jesus is ready to save you.
 - h) Jesus came to actively look for and deliver the perishing. You and I are sent on the same quest. If we stay on mission, we can avoid being infected with the Pharisee virus:

**The church is always trying to get other people to reform;
it might not be a bad idea to reform itself a little
by way of example.**

-Mark Twain