

## Sermon Notes

**Big Idea:** How can you tell the difference between engaging God as a religion, and enjoying God through a relationship. To sum it up in one word - the difference is GRACE. The Book of Galatians helps Christians eradicate a religious approach to God from our lives, so that we can pursue a joyous relationship with Him. Let's learn to *Let Grace Work*.

### Religion: Trying to be Godly without God.

#### Two Key Questions:

Galatians 1:1-12; 2:20 (NIV)

1. Where is the 'Trap of Religion' holding me back?
2. How is a 'Relationship of Grace' actively setting me free?

Religion says, "I'm not good enough."  
Grace says, "I'm not good enough."

Religion isolates from the culture.  
Grace infiltrates the culture.

Religion says, "Do."  
Grace says, "Done!"

Religion says the method is sacred.  
Grace says the message is sacred.

Religion says, "ought" and "should."  
Grace says, "finished" and "complete."

Religion seeks to protect itself.  
Grace embraces change and risk.

Religion focuses on what we can do for God.  
Grace focuses on what God has done for us.

Religion points inward.  
Grace points outward.

Religion focuses on what we can do for God.  
Grace focuses on what we can do with God.

Religion says, "Behave, Believe, Belong."  
Grace says, "Belong, Believe, Behave."

Religion focuses on the outward.  
Grace focuses on the inward.

Religion's fruit is a judgmental heart and a critical spirit.  
Grace's fruit is an open heart and a generous spirit.

Religion makes rules.  
Grace makes room.

Religion produces shame and condemnation.  
Grace produces sorrow and conviction.

## Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Where is the 'Trap of Religion' holding you back? How is a 'Relationship of Grace' actively setting you free?
- 3) Read Galatians 1:6-7. In what ways have you believed the false gospel of religion?
- 4) In your own words, how would you define Religion verses Grace?
- 5) Which of the contrasting sentence pairs speak the 'loudest' to you? What's one way you can "Let Grace Work" this week. Explain.
- 6) Will you commit to memorize and meditate upon Galatians 2:20?