

Losing your Religion: He made you to love you

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1 John 4:18 (TPT) "Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But love's perfection drives the fear of punishment far from our hearts. Whoever walks constantly afraid of punishment has not reached love's perfection."

1. COMMON BELIEVES WE ARE LEFT WITH WHEN WE ARE RELIGIOUS AND DON'T UNDERSTAND GOD'S LOVE FOR US:

- 1.1.** God is too busy for me.
- 1.2.** God is just interested in my sin.
- 1.3.** God is not pleased with me.
- 1.4.** I am okay with God but I hate people.
- 1.5.** I don't trust people or God.
- 1.6.** People hurt me and I have high walls around me.
- 1.7.** I just want to hide in church.

2. GOD IS RELATIONAL

- 2.1.** God's original intent for us was to put us in a family.

Romans 8:15 "And you did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into the fear of never being good enough . But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, "Beloved Father!"

- 2.2.** God wants relationship with us.

1 John 4:16-17 "We have come into an intimate experience with God's love, and we trust in the love he has for us. God is love! Those who are living in love are living in God, and God lives through them. By living in God , love has been brought to its full expression in us so that we may fearlessly face the day of judgment, because all that Jesus now is, so are we in this world."

- 2.3.** God created us because He sees us as valuable.
- 2.4.** Jesus took our sins away because He loves us. Religion makes us believe He did it because He wants to manipulate us.
- 2.5.** God does not see us as an object to use, He sees us as valuable and He wants us to experience love.

- 2.6. The following scriptures show that we are already loved even if we don't realize it yet:

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) "For he chose u in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.."

1 John 4:10 "This is love: He loved us long before we loved him . It was his love, not ours. He proved it by sending his Son to be the pleasing sacrificial offering to take away our sins."

John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 13:1 (NIV) "It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

3. YOU ARE RELATIONAL

- 3.1. You were created from love, to be loved and to love.
- 3.2. We are made in God's image. If He is love, then we are love too. We are just broken in some ways, but Jesus came to heal the broken hearted.
- 3.3. Part of being relational is living in community with others, but we often fear allowing people into our hearts.
- 3.4. Part of our healing process will involve other people.
- 3.5. We have to allow others to love us in our broken state.

Sermon Discussion Guide He made you to love you

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Have you fallen into the trap of believing some of "the common believes we are left with when we are religious" as mentioned in point 1? Do you understand that these believes are lies?
2. Do you believe that God loves you less when you sin? Do you sometimes feel like you have to earn God's love?
3. Are you sometimes scared of letting people into your heart? Why does it scare you?