

## RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP?

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### Euthanasia

### Youth In Asia

*To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:*

*"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.*

*The **Pharisee** stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'*

*"But the **tax collector** stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*

*"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." **Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)***

### How to know if your experience with Jesus is Religion or Relationship.

#### 1. Do you focus on **Legalism** or **Grace**?

##### **Legalism means...**

Strict, literal, or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code.

*For it is **by grace** you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, **not by works**, so that no one can boast.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)**

##### **Mercy means...**

Not getting what I deserve.

##### **Grace means...**

Getting what I don't deserve.

##### **Grace is...**

The unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor of God.

*Well then, should we **keep on sinning** so that God can show us more and more of **His wonderful grace**? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? **Romans 6:1-2 (NLT)***

## **2. Do you focus on **Traditionalism** or **Innovation**?**

*So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the **tradition of the elders** instead of eating their food with defiled hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:*

*"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are **holding on to human traditions.**"*

**Mark 7:5-8 (NIV)**

**We marry the **mission**. We date the **methods**.**

**The more you hold on to **what is normal**,  
the more you forfeit **what is possible!****

## **3. Do you focus on **Sensationalism** or **Obedience**?**

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to **show them a sign from heaven**.

He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. **A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.**" Jesus then left them and went away. **Matthew 16:1-4 (NIV)**

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. **Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)***