



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
September 23, 2012
gospel in life –
Grace Changes Everything

desert breeze community church

Part 3: Heart - Three Ways to Live

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

People tend to think that there are two ways to relate to God—to follow Him and do His will or to reject Him and do your own thing. But, there are three ways to relate to God: religion, irreligion and the gospel.

Who Is God?

- He is a Father unlike you've ever known. Rom8:15-17; 1John3:1
- Earthly fathers shape our concept of our Heavenly Father.
- Your concept is healthy when you run to Him to be with Him rather than to use Him. Matt. 7:7-11

What is Sin?

- It is more than breaking the rules it is putting yourself in God's place. Ex20:3; Matt4:10
- There are two ways to be your own Savior & Lord:
Younger Brother: Breaking all the rules
(Self discovery)
Elder Brother: Keeping all the rules
(Moral conformity)
- It is believing that ultimate satisfaction is found in the Father's wealth rather than in His love. 1Tim4:4; Rom1:25

What is Salvation?

- It begins with the initiating love of the Father. John 6:44; 1John4:19; Rom5:8
- You must repent of not only breaking the rules but why you would ever keep the rules. Ps51:4, 12; 2Cor7:10-11
- Your heart must be smitten by what it cost the Father to bring you home. v31; John 3:16; Mark 10:45

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.



Growing

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- 1) People tend to think that there are two ways to relate to God—to follow Him & do His will or to reject Him & do your own thing. But, there are three ways to relate to God: religion, irreligion & the gospel. Do you think people who reject Christianity understand what they're rejecting? Why do you think people confuse Christianity with religion (moralism)?
- 2) Read Luke 15:1-2, 11-32. How does Jesus redefine God for us as a Father unlike you've ever known (Rom8:15-17; 1John3:1)? How do earthly fathers shape our concept of our Heavenly Father and how do you know that your concept of your heavenly Father is getting healthier (Matt. 7:7-11)?
- 3) How is sin more than breaking the rules and what two ways can a person be their own Savior & Lord? How do the two brothers represent the two groups of people around Jesus in vv1-2? Which of the two brothers is easiest for you to identify with, and why?
- 4) What emotions and attitudes does the elder brother display, and what does this show about his relationship with God? How is sin believing that ultimate satisfaction is found in the Father's wealth rather than in His love (1Tim4:4; Rom1:25)? How do both of the brothers show this sinful attitude?
- 5) How does the Father go out to both sons in order to bring them in & what does this say about who initiates salvation (Jn 6:44; 1Jn4:19; Rom5:8)? What does it mean to repent not only of our bad things, but also for the reason we do good things? What did it cost the Father to bring you home (John 3:16; Luke 19:10)? Pray.