

The Message Gathering

The Art Of Relational Reading #1 The Why Of Relational Reading

Discussion Question: How many of you have started a reading program, and then were unable to actually complete it?

Top Three Reasons Given By Believers For Why People Struggle To Read The Bible:

- It's Boring!
- It's Difficult To Understand.
- I Know I Should . . . But I Don't Want To!

Two Reasons Why We Believe People Struggle To Read The Bible:

1. They Are Afraid They Will Have To Change.
2. They Live Under Law - Not By Grace!
They Try To Live By Rules and Regulations, Instead Of Living Relationally

Few Scriptures That Will Help Us Understand The True Purpose And Reality Of The Rules and Regulations:

Romans 3:20 (NIV)

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (NIV)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:14 (NIV)

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Three Things That Happen When We Try To Live By The Law:

1. Our Focus Is Blurred.
2. Our Performance Is Weakened
3. Our Service Is Stopped

Today's Statement Of Truth:

God Has Not Called Us To Live A Life Of Duty, But To A Life Of Devotion,
Because Duty Can Never Take You To The Places Devotion Can!

Questions:

- What are some of the excuses you have found yourself using in the past when it comes to reading the Bible regularly?
- Were you previously aware that living by the law does not bring about the righteousness required by God?
- Do you think that people choose to live by rules and regulations because it is easier than living by faith?
- How have you personally seen rules and regulations keep you from living relationally with God?
- As a group, list several freedoms you could experience from living a relationally devoted life?
- Where do you find yourself living today: A Life Of Duty or A Life Of Devotion?

Next Week - What Relational Reading Really Looks Like