

CHIEF MINISTRIES

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Would you believe that religion can even be found in prison? Religion will damn your soul! Religion is hanging around the cross! Paul, in Acts when he was preaching to Mars Hill Athenians, basically told them they were addicted to religion in Chapter 17:22-23

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: Acts 17:22-23

I've found men in prison who have grabbed onto religion but have not held on to the One who died for them. Men are always wanting to talk about New Age philosophy, whether to worship on Saturday or Sunday, that Jesus wasn't who He said He was, or there is only Jehovah, or Trinity is not mentioned in the Bible, or it's Allah!, or Jesus was not the Messiah, He's still coming, that if you're not immediately baptized after professing your faith, well..."good luck" as they saunter away. Come on men of God, give me a break! Give God a break! Wake up! These are the very hindrances keeping you from being effective in leading men to the cross. You have been trying to clean the fish before catching it. Ever heard of catch and release? Seems like it is catch and destroy sometimes.

Listen up! Those of you who claim to know Jesus ask yourself this question. How many men have I been able to effectively lead to the cross of Jesus Christ? Am I too busy trying to add someone to my "religion"- believing what I do? Don't get me wrong, men, you must believe in something. If a man won't stand for something, he'll fall for anything. But ask yourself this: If I am too worried about getting someone to believe all the doctrines of men then I've grabbed onto, rather than just loving, blessing, praying for and helping them, then maybe those very things I've thought and believed were oh so necessary aren't as important as I thought. I mean really ask yourself this.

Study the scriptures yourself and ask the Spirit to reveal truth to you. Trust me, He will, but that's another letter. Don't pull out your religious ideology. Please! There's enough of that floating around the cesspool of religion! My last letters have laid a foundation of above all to LOVE! I think that's a scary 4-letter word to a lot of men because of the vulnerability factors we feel are involved. If God is our Father, our Leader then our love for Him casts out the fear of loving, of being vulnerable. 1John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out all fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love 1John 4:18

Are we loving Him out of religious duty or because simply, He first loved us? 1Corinthians chapter 13 says so much:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned¹ but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Are you full of God's love or full of religion? Are you in no hurry with those around you? Are you enduring all things? Are you kind? Are you consistent? Are you generous, not envious or jealous? Are you humble, not parading around saying, "look at me"? Are you courteous? Are you polite, never rude? Are you unselfish? Are you not bitter or seeking revenge? Do you have a good temper, not irritated or resentful? Do you hate sin? Do you get happy when something goes wrong for others? Are you slow to expose? Are you eager to believe the best in your brothers rather than the worst? Are you sincere? Are you honest, not giving off any impression but the truth? Are you just, joyful, and truthful? Do you know when to be silent? Are you full of trust? Are you not a hypocrite?

I have asked a lot of questions, but I think it's time we ask ourselves these very things every day. I challenge you to read these questions again and take the time to answer them. If there are areas you need to work on, like me, then now is the time to kneel and ask God to help you in that area. Let His love surround you. Let it engulf you, let it transform you! You see, loving God is the greatest thing one could ever do. Do it with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment Mark 12:30

Then as a follower of His Son, you need to be willing to live Christianity. You see Christianity is getting on the cross, loving your neighbor and those around you. Religion is just hanging around the cross.... Galatians 2:20 says:

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20

My brothers and sisters and all readers of this letter. Never before have I felt an urgency to tell you God is calling us to love in action. Forget about labels, the denominations, the fitting of everyone not like you in your box. God is not in a box. We are. I challenge you to jump out of that cooped up, cramped place into the arena of His presence. It's there you'll find joy, peace and the most indescribable love. He's waiting! He loves you and so do I.

Your fellow warrior for His Kingdom

CHIEF