



-- **Big Idea: Be relational instead of religious and choose love instead of legalism.**

1.) Make a CUSTOM of corporate worship (v. 10).

-- Joyful attendance at a Sunday morning worship service ought to be the very first thing that you write on your family calendar.

2.) Be RELATIONAL not RELIGIOUS (v. 11-14).

-- True faith in Christ is focused upon fostering relationships, not following religious rules. (Matthew 22:37-40).

-- Whereas Jesus' life was about **PERFECTING** relationships, the synagogue ruler's was about practicing religion.

-- Any faith that is not first of all relational is not pure faith in Christ.

3.) Be GRATEFUL for God's grace (v. 14).

-- While it is fine to have preferences, it is ungodly in the utmost to let our relationships **SUFFER** on account of them.

-- *Are we grateful for the grace God places right before us, or are we like the synagogue ruler who misses it altogether in pursuit of our own purposes?*

4.) Choose LOVE instead of LEGALISM (v. 15-16).

- Legalism replaces relationships with **REGULATIONS** and it tries to hide a lack of love beneath a load of laws.
- We deceive ourselves badly if we believe we can live for God without loving one another (1 John 4:20-21).
- At the center of true faith is a **RELATIONSHIP** and the heart of relationships is **LOVE**