



Part #4: The Role of Rules.

Introduction:

All religious and faith movements seem to have 'rules'. For many, rules are the centerpiece of religious life. Many people feel that the Ten Commandments are rules that make a relationship with God possible. But what if our relationship with God is based on rules to be kept? What if for God, relationship precedes rules? What is the role of rules when it comes to having a relationship with God?

Questions to Ponder:

1. Growing up, did you feel like religion was based on the:
 - family model ?
 - club model?
 - neighbourhood association model?
2. How do you personally react to rules? Why?
3. Read the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20. All of them are relational in nature. What do they say about our relationship to God (Commands 1-4)? What do you feel they say about our relationships with each other (Commands 5-10)?
4. What does it mean to you that God is far more interested in relationship than regulations? Why do you feel that the 10 Commandments were necessary for the Israelite nation? For us!
5. Have you begun a relationship with God through the door of faith, or have you been trying to behave your way into that relationship? What's the difference for you?

Next Step:

If God's 'rules' are a confirmation rather than a condition of relationship with Him, what do the rules say about God & His character? What might it say about His motives for making these rules? God's rules point us to a healthier relationship with Him and with each other. Consider how they might protect and provide safe relationships for us.

Reflect: "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." (John 1:12–13 NLT)