

What Is Spirituality?

100817AM

Romans 8:5-8

- The idea that worship and service must be casual and entertaining is popular.
- Some argue that spirituality and faithfulness are not necessarily related (Jn. 14:15; 15:14).
- Mk. 7:6-13 – Human traditions that violate God's word are always wrong, regardless of how they make us feel.
- Jn. 4:23-24; Col. 3:17 – Faithfulness is essential to worship and service!

Worldly Spirituality

- Humanistic definition of “spiritual”:
- Defined by self for self – self-discovery, self-definition, self-fulfillment.
- Popular, religious definition of “spiritual”:
- Relating to an informal but stimulating atmosphere, or environment.
- A feeling, a sense, or a thrill, that results from an experience.
- Compare 2 Tim. 3:4-5; 4:3-4.

The Bible Definition

- Rom. 8:5a – Mind set on “the things of the Spirit”
- Rom. 8:5b – “live according to the Spirit”
- Rom. 8:6 – “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”
- Rom. 8:7 – Subject to the law of God.
- Rom. 8:8 – Pleasing to God.
- Rom. 8:9-11 – Faithful to Christ.
- Rom. 8:14 – “Led by the Spirit of God” & thus, the children of God!

Definitely Not Spiritual

- Rom. 8:5-6 – Living according to the flesh; by what pleases us rather than what pleases God (compare 2 Thes. 2:12).

- Rom. 8:7 – Not in subjection to the law of God.
- 1 Cor. 2:14 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- Mat. 22:29 Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

Spiritual Nourishment Produces Spiritual Fruit

- 1 Pet. 2:1-2 – Proper spiritual nutrition comes only from the word of God. Compare Hos. 4:6; Mat. 22:29.
- Gal. 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
- Eph. 5:8-9 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.**

Decision...

- Not be confused by popular, but worldly, definitions of spirituality.
- Rom. 12:1-2 – Conform to God's will, not the world's.
- Eph. 6:10-13 – Be armed against spiritual foes.
- Phil. 3:20 – Because our citizenship is in heaven!
- Rom. 8:1 – Live “according to the Spirit,” obeying the gospel of Christ, in which there is no condemnation!
- Eph. 4:22-24 – Put off the old man of sin and put on the new man... “be renewed in the spirit of your mind”