

Isaiah 58:1-14 **Religion that pleases Yahweh & Religion which does not**

Unacceptable Religion

1 "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.

3 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?'

"In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers.

4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high.

5 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the Lord?

Acceptable Holiness

6 "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

"If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, 10 If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

12 Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

13 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words,

14 Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.

The mouth of the Lord has spoken."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Unacceptable Religion

✧ "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.
'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?'

"In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high.

Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the Lord? [\[Isaiah 58:1-5\]](#)

- ✧ Unacceptable religion is focused on the individual seeking to please God by some ritualistic function of self centered exaltation. God views it all as transgression.
- ✧ They practice a hypocritical form of religion thinking to be heard on High while they exploit their laborers seeking personal pleasure.
- ✧ They afflict their soul by going without food while they fight and debate with each-other.
- ✧ They bow the head like a bulrush and spread out sackcloth and ashes.
- ✧ God does not respond to such hypocrisy.

Acceptable Holiness

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doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words,
Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of
the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. [\[Isaiah 58:6-14\]](#)

- ✧ The religion God will respond to is one of true righteousness by people who honor the moral law and are compassionate toward the needy by providing the things needed.
- ✧ This will be the fame of the Kingdom age as Messiah rules the world in true righteousness and executes true justice. [\[Isaiah 9:2-7, 16:5, 33:5-6, Hebrews 1:8-12\]](#)
- ✧ James condensed the concept in his writing: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." [\[James 1:27\]](#)
- ✧ Self seeking gets you no where with God.
- ✧ Selfless compassion in all areas of life caring for the needy, honoring the Moral Law, like Jesus said, "Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and your neighbor as yourself, on these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." [\[Luke 10:27, Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34\]](#)
- ✧ True loving righteousness will bring all the blessings of the Lord for the inhabitants of the land and He will hear their prayers speedily. [\[Isaiah 58:9\]](#)