

MORE JESUS, LESS RELIGION

Strengthening Your Relationships – Part 6

October 12, 2014

Bono said... *“Christians are hard to tolerate; I don’t know how Jesus does it.”*

HOW TOXIC FAITH SHOWS ITSELF...

- ♦ Compulsive religious activity
- ♦ Laziness
- ♦ Presumption upon God
- ♦ Control
- ♦ Extreme intolerance
- ♦ Addiction to a religious high

PROBLEMS WITH TOXIC FAITH...

1. FALSE Teachers

Matthew 23:4 (NLT) *“They (false teachers) crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.”*

2. Toxic CHURCHES

Jeremiah 6:14 (NLT) *“They offered superficial treatments for My people’s mortal wound.”*

Hurtful Expectations Of Toxic Churches...

- Truly FAITHFUL people don’t have problems.
- Problems are the result of SIN in your life.
- Always ACT like you don’t have problems.
- If you can’t fake it, you best STAY home.
- Display great SHAME if you do show up.

3. Foolish BELIEFS

Colossians 2:8 (NLT) *“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.”*

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

Foolish Beliefs Of Toxic Faith...

- True believers always display real PEACE when tragedy strikes.
- If you have FAITH you’ll be physically healed.
- The more money you GIVE to God the more money you’re going to get back.
- God will PROVIDE you with a perfect mate.

The **ONE SOLUTION** for toxic faith is JESUS!

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

Jesus gives us the best example of healthy faith.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HEALTHY FAITH

- It’s a FOCUSED faith.
- It’s a LOVING faith.
- It’s a PERSONAL faith.
- It’s a RESPECTFUL faith.
- It’s a COMMUNITY faith.
- It’s a GROWING faith.

Hebrews 12:2b (GNT) *“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on Whom our faith depends from beginning to end.”*

The fruit of your faith is learning to love others the way Jesus first loved you.