

Restoration: Religion will not restore you to God
April 2, 2017

There are 2 ways to rebel against God - Self-discovery and moral conformity.
What did the pastor mean by self-discovery? Moral conformity?

How do you think you may still be rebelling against God's leadership of your life through moral conformity?

Read Luke 15:1-7

Are tax collectors and sinners two different groups?

Does it make sense that the shepherd leaves the 99 in the open field exposed to danger and goes after just one?

What is Jesus trying to say in this story of the lost sheep?

Do you think he means that the righteous don't need to repent?

Read Luke 15:8-10

We like it when someone comes to know Jesus but we seldom show much intensity in attempting to reach people that are lost to Him.

What keeps us from this kind of intensity for searching for the lost?

Read Luke 15:11-32

Notice that hard natural consequences brought the younger son to his senses. Did hard consequences ever help you or someone you loved turn around?

Is there anyone in your life that you keep trying to rescue that maybe you ought to allow natural consequences to instruct? [group leaders this is more for personal reflection not for a group question]

Many commentators say that when the son decided to go home as a hired hand that he did not yet love the Father or understand the Father. How do some people turn from wild living to return to church in a way that shows they do not really understand this wild crazy concept of grace?

Why do you think the elder brother had zero ability to really

welcome his brother home? If it was up to the older brother what would most likely have been his response to the younger brother?

This amazing reception by the Father shows that God is willing to forgive anything.

Is it really fair of God to forgive everything? Murder, rape, child abuse?

If God forgives those things how should society respond to people who seem to have repented of those kinds of serious crimes?

The church in general has many older brothers in its midst since generally well behaving people (moral conformers) show up at church more than self-discovery folks. Describe older brother attitudes you see showing up in we church people? In yourself?

Close by praying for us to have an attitude toward the lost that we see in Jesus. Pray for up to three people each who you know are lost to Jesus and that you are hoping will be restored to Him.

Who that is lost to God will you invite to Easter morning?