

**SERMON NOTES - Mt.12.43-50 -
Reformation Versus Relationship #175
July 24, 2022**

Morality by itself, without a **R**_____ relationship to God, is more **D**_____ than immorality. Outward righteousness is one of the greatest **H**_____ to the Gospel.

The Pharisees were classic **M**_____ - they were self-**S**_____ & self-**R**_____.

- ❖ Under the illusion of their own goodness, they became **U**_____ with the message of the Gospel.
- ❖ They could not imagine Jesus' message having **R**_____ for them.
- ❖ Jesus said their self-righteousness was the most **I**_____ form of unrighteousness (5.20).

There has never been a group of men more **C**_____ to a demanding religious & moral code than the Pharisees & never a group of men so **F**_____ from God.

Their need was for: inner **T**_____ - theirs only as they **T**_____ in Jesus for salvation from sin.

I. THE DANGER OF REFORMATION vv.43-45

The severe consequence of religious & moral reformation apart from a right **R**_____ to Him.

*Reformation is not permanent if not accompanied by saving faith
*Where Christ does not live, demons are free to live

Religious **L**_____ tends to get progressively more **U**_____ from generation to generation. It is much easier to reach someone who is overwhelmed with a **T**_____ **S**_____ of His sin than someone who is overwhelmed with a **F**_____ **S**_____ of his righteousness.

Whether in the broad range of history or in an individual life, the same principle applies:
O_____ **R**_____ without **I**_____ **T**_____ brings susceptibility to even worse evil than that from which one turned away.

II. THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIP vv.46-50

Reformation is:

- ❖ not salvation,
- ❖ not regeneration,
- ❖ not redemption.

In order to have salvation there must be a new and right relationship to God
the family of God is the **O**_____ family that ultimately **M**_____.
Obedience accompanies True Faith

CONCLUSION:

- ✚ At best, reformation changes only the **O**_____ of a person;
- ✚ at worst it becomes a **B**_____ to his being changed on the inside.
- ❖ not reform them.
- ❖ Until a person claims that truth, no other can be of any benefit.

The great message of the **G**_____, & of the Church;

- ✚ is not a call to morality but
- ✚ a call to **D**_____ from sin through the Lord Jesus Christ.