

Text: *Isaiah 58:1-12, New Living Translation*

Overcome a Wrong-minded Relationship with God and Religion

- We must recognize that our religion is not _____.

- We cannot continue to use religion to _____ God.

- This wrong-minded approach is _____ and gets us _____ with God.

Move Beyond Pretense

- God is looking for _____.

- God is also looking for sincere _____ of His character.

Life Enrichment

What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Why do you think it's so easy to pretend at religion?
- How is it possible to pretend at religion even when a person is making serious and sacrificial effort?
- What are some ways Christians attempt to use religious practices to manipulate God?
- What does God think about our efforts to attempt to get Him to do what we want?
- When God refuses to bow to our manipulation, how do we typically respond? What does His refusal do to our attitude toward Him and the faith?
- According to 2 Corinthians 7:10, what is the difference between true repentance and mere regret? Why does it matter?
- According to Isaiah 58:1-12, what does genuine fasting produce in us? How does it help us examine ourselves? How does it improve our relationships with God, His people (the Church), and our local community?