

Inward and Spiritual Duties of Religion

by Thomas Brooks

True Christians focus on the internal and spiritual duties of religion, while hypocrites and formalists are more concerned with external duties.

Scripture: Psalm 139:23-24, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7, Colossians 3:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Hebrews 4:12, James 1:22, 2 Peter 1:5-8

Topics: "True Religion", "Inward Spiritual Duties"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the distinction between external and internal duties of religion, noting that many Christians, as well as hypocrites, often focus on outward practices like attending church and participating in rituals, while neglecting the deeper, inward spiritual responsibilities. He highlights the importance of self-examination, self-resignation, and divine meditation as essential components of true faith. Brooks calls believers to engage in these inward duties to cultivate a genuine relationship with God and to apply the truths of Christ to their own lives.

Transcript

Christians who have but small measures of grace and holiness; and hypocrites and formalists who have not the least measure of true grace and holiness--these are most commonly exercised and busied about the external duties and services of religion; but very seldom, very rare, shall you find them in the more inward and spiritual duties of religion.

The external duties of religion are . . .

hearing the word preached,

reading the word,

fasting,
singing of psalms,
Christian fellowship, and
receiving the Lord's supper.

The internal and spiritual duties of religion are . . .

self-examination,
self-resignation to God,
self-loathing,
self-judging,
divine meditation,
praying in the Spirit,
watchfulness over the heart,
making application of . . .
the blood of Christ,
the death of Christ,
the grace of Christ,
the love of Christ,
the word of Christ--to one's own soul.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/inward-and-spiritual-duties-of-religion/>

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