

“More Than a Checklist”

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August 3, 2025

God doesn't want checked boxes—He wants changed hearts. Jesus invites us to relationship, not just religion. (Matthew 23:25-28)

1. The Checklist Trap

- It's easy to go through the motions of faith:
☐ Church ☐ Prayer ☐ Give ☐ Serve
 - But routines without relationship leave us empty.
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2. Isaiah 29:13 – Religious but Distant

“They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me...”

- God sees past actions to the heart.
 - We can look spiritual but miss Him entirely.
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3. John 3:1–2 – Meet Nicodemus

- A respected Pharisee—checked every box.
 - But something was missing, so he came to Jesus.
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4. John 3:3–8 – Born Again, Not Just Better Behavior

- **Jesus:** “You must be born again.”
 - True transformation is from the inside out, not the outside in.
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5. John 3:16–17 – Love Over Law

“For God so loved the world...”

- Jesus didn't come to give us more rules. He came to give us **life**. (Ezekiel 36:26,27)
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6. John 3:19–21 – Step Into the Light

- Stop hiding behind religion or a set of rules.
 - Walk in authenticity, faith, and relationship.
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Closing Challenge

- Are you just checking boxes?—or are you truly alive in Christ? **Let's trade the checklist for a new heart.**
- For the one who's been *doing everything right* but feels spiritually dry—**you need to be born again.**
- For the one who's been *trying to earn God's love*— **He already loves you.**
- For the students watching your parents' faith— **make it your own.**