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Most people have never "experienced" God, they have only known religion.

Religion is man's futile attempt to reconcile himself with God.

Jesus is God's gift to pay the price none of us can pay!

There is such a danger when we try to make ourselves **right with God**.

When you try to make yourself **right with God** through church (including this one), sacraments, good works, or being better than most, you position yourself far from God.

<u>Romans 3:20-24</u> – ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. ²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets proclaim. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Self-righteousness comes in many forms:

- I don't need a savior, I am as good as most or good enough.
- I have earned my place by good works or thru church
- I have gone too far for God.

Romans 5:8-9 – ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment.

Jesus came to deliver broken people, not to judge them.

This church exists, not to **see through you**, but to **see you through**.

<u>I John 4:16</u> - And we have known, believed and come to trust the love that God has toward us. God is love and he that dwells in love, dwells in God and God in him.

<u>John 3:16</u> – For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.