

# THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION *IN THE CHURCH*

*by BRYAN ELLIOTT from MORE THAN GOLD*

Unsurprisingly, the religious spirit is prevalent in the church, as evidenced by the reality that many churches are places where doctrine, rules, judgement, performance, and earning have replaced the extravagant gospel of grace, the good news of God's love.

*“The chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God and heaven without hell.” —William Booth\**

Legalism and the religious spirit (a sure sign our flesh or old nature is active) can quickly bind us to rituals, performance, dos and don'ts, pride, and shame—all of which are entirely opposed to the message of Christ's death on the cross. How so? Any system that encourages us to rely on our own strength, traditions, or history instead of relying on the saving power of Jesus is a system that leads to death.

*He alone makes us adequate ministers who are focused on an entirely new covenant. Our ministry is not based on the letter of the law but through the power of the Spirit. The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit pours out life.*

*—2 Corinthians 3:6, TPT*

Remember, works do not please God. Our job is to submit ourselves to Christ, following His command to love God first, and second to love our neighbor as ourselves. It's that simple!

## *ADDITIONAL RESOURCES*

This resource is from Bryan Elliott's book, *More than Gold*. Bryan is the President and co-founder of M46 Ministries along with his daughter, Bryn Elliott. Their mission is to inspire, disciple, and bring hope to the nations.

Find more resources at **m46ministries.com**



\*"William Booth Quotes," Goodreads, accessed November 23, 2021, <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/792960-the-chief-danger-of-the-20th-century-will-be-religion>