

## The Response System

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here were once long ago two young women that loved the Lord Jesus Christ very much. They decided to come up with some type of system that would bring them closer to God. They discussed it a lot together, and came up with a iResponseî system. They picked common things that happen in their everyday life. And they planned on having these things as reminders for them to talk with their Beloved Lord. Every time one of them sneezed, the other was to say, iGod bless you!î Every time they were hungry, they were to say, iLord I love you.î And every time they were full, iLord, thank You for loving me,î and when they drink, ìGod, give me my spiritual water.î They also came up with a song they were to sing

before they go to sleep every night. And so on, and so forth. They agreed that this is a great reminder for them of their Beloved, and a beautiful way to live with Him continuously; and so they started!

It is very clearly written, ìAll who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.î Persecution isnít always from outside. It can

certainly come from within. Many suffer persecution from their own selves; persecution of maintaining the correct attitude; persecution of standing up to the truth, and reminding each other of our first intentions.

For it was only a while later that the two young women started forgetting that correct attitude, and forgetting the original reason for their system. They placed more attention on trying to remember which iResponseî is to be said when, rather than using these responses to be with God. Instead of the love they had for each other, they now make it a point of noticing when the other person forgot to say, iGod, give me my spiritual water,î after drinking. No longer praising God, they now compete as to who can say the song

most beautifully and most accurately to way they had first created it. They started following the rules and attending to them more than to the Lord Jesus Christ. They have ceased to look through the system at the Lord Jesus Christ, and replaced it by looking at the system; and stopped there. Yes. Unfortunately. They had sadly reached a point of Christless Christianity.

Oh, how often is His heart broken by those who want to be with Him. I can see Him looking down and a tear falls off His eye because of those He loves the most. I can hear Him saying, iWhat more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I

> expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?î (Is. 5:4). I can feel Him wishing for us to remember from where we have fallen, and return to our first works. Yes, one of our biggest persecutions is us.

> Christianity was never meant to be a set of rules, regulations, rituals, or steps to follow. It is rather a beautiful love story. An intimate relationship

between the Creator, and the created that He loves to death (literally!). Everything God gave us is for our own good. Every command He made to enhance that love relationship. ìThe Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the

Sabbath.î (Mark 2:27).



God gave us so many iSabbaths,î to enjoy Him, yet we have made them into iso many rules.î He allowed us to have a way of communication with the Eternal Divine, that we have twisted into prayers we irecite,î and an iOur Father Who Art in Heaven,î that we say too fast to think about or mean. He gave us commandments that will guard and protect us. We rather made them into rules, and converted them to constitutional formality.



Christless Christianity. Letís not settle for a ritual that lacks our Beloved Himself. Nor accept a wooden cross that is missing the crucified Lord! Letis not forget The love story. Let's not get too caught up into details, and forget the main message. Letis not forget that we are supposed to look through all at One. Letis not have another party for Him, without Him!

After all, it won't be long before He comes back, and then nothing will matter. No response; no song memorized; no verse reference I know; no ritual I have kept; no article I have written, nor book I have read. iMy son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.î (Proverbs 23:26)

Now I cry to you, dear reader, as loud as I can: He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

## Useful verses

For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way holding the tradition of the eldersÖHe answered and said to them, iWell did Isaiah prophesy of you, hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far <u>from Me.</u> (Mark 7:1-7)

iFor laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of menÖ. All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.î (Mark 7:8, 9)

iNevertheless, I have this against you: that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do your first works.î (Rev. 2:4, 5) #

## A TRUE STORY THAT HAPPENED IN THE SOVIET UNION

One day a 6 year old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was going to explain evolution to the children. The teacher asked a little boy:

TEACHER: Tommy do you see the tree outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

TEACHER: Tommy, do you see the grass outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

TEACHER: Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky.

TOMMY: Okay. (He returned a few minutes later) Yes, I saw the sky.

TEACHER: Did you see God?

TOMMY: No

TEACHER:: That's my point. We can't see God because he isn't there. He doesn't exist.

A little girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions. The teacher agreed and the little girl asked

the boy:

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy, do you see the tree outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy do you see the grass outside

TOMMY: Yessssss (getting tired of the questions by

this time).

LITTLE GIRL: Did you see the sky?

TOMMY: Yesssss

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy, do you see the teacher?

TOMMY: Yes

LITTLE GIRL: Do you see her brain?

TOMMY: No

LITTLE GIRL: Then according to what we were taught

today in school, she must not have one!

"FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT" (2 Corinthians 5:7)