

Title: Do I As I Do – Romans 2 17-29

Read:

¹⁷⁻²⁴If you're brought up Jewish, don't assume that you can lean back in the arms of your religion and take it easy, feeling smug because you're an insider to God's revelation, a connoisseur of the best things of God, informed on the latest doctrines! I have a special word of caution for you who are sure that you have it all together yourselves and, because you know God's revealed Word inside and out, feel qualified to guide others through their blind alleys and dark nights and confused emotions to God. While you are guiding others, who is going to guide you? I'm quite serious. While preaching "Don't steal!" are you going to rob people blind? Who would suspect you? The same with adultery. The same with idolatry. You can get by with almost anything if you front it with eloquent talk about God and his law. The line from Scripture, "It's because of you Jews that the outsiders are down on God," shows it's an old problem that isn't going to go away. ²⁵⁻²⁹Circumcision, the surgical ritual that marks you as a Jew, is great if you live in accord with God's law. But if you don't, it's worse than not being circumcised. The reverse is also true: The uncircumcised who keep God's ways are as good as the circumcised—in fact, better. Better to keep God's law uncircumcised than break it circumcised. Don't you see: It's not the cut of a knife that makes a Jew. You become a Jew by who you are. It's the mark of God on your heart, not of a knife on your skin, that makes a Jew. And recognition comes from God, not legalistic critics.

Think:

I spent the weekend with a group of young people and we were having a great time. One of the young people was full of great advice. She was telling the group about the bad effects of smoking and how addictive it is. She was saying that drinking heavily is really bad and can lead you to do things that you wouldn't normally do. It was great advice; the problem was she then went outside for a cigarette and talked about missing not getting smashed that night because she was away with us. How much impact do you think her advice had, on the others? Next to zero. That doesn't mean it was wrong advice but no one listened because she wasn't taking her own advice. It's a lesson we can learn and it's also coming out of this passage. If we claim to be Christian, but gossip about our mates, how can we show people more of Jesus love? If we tell people that Jesus is all we need to know that we are loved but are constantly hunting for a boyfriend or girlfriend, will they believe what we say? Or we could say things like God has only good for me and I know that a relationship is important to get right. We could simple and quietly walk away from gossip and put into practice what Jesus said when he said that we are to love one another. Hey we all make mistakes, but lets not make our tag line "do what I say", let's make it "do what I do."

Pray:

Father I know I make mistakes so thank you for Jesus. Please help me do the right things as well as say the right things. Amen.

Action:

What do you need to change so that you are walking the walk as well as talking the talk? That's code for what do you need to change, so that you are doing what you say. Bye.