

Christianity is NOT Religion

1. What was your initial reaction/response after reading this article?
2. Is there anything that challenged you in any way? If so what?
3. Has your view of Christianity changed since reading this article? Is so in what way?
4. How did you view religion before reading this article?
5. How was it that Martin Luther, Soren Kierkegaard, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer understood the difference between Christianity and Religion? See page one.
6. The author quotes Karl Barth eight times at the beginning of the article. Pick one that impresses you the most or disturbs you the most.
7. Tell why?
8. According to Karl Barth, what is it religion attempting to replace?
9. What do you think Jacques Ellul means when he says, “religion goes up” and “revelation comes down”?
10. Would you say that the term “Christian Religion” is a contradiction in terms? Why or why not?

BACKGROUND OF THE WORD “RELIGION:”

11. The author gives a background on the word “religion”. He also mentions that it can mean to convey “being bound” or “tied to something else”. What else does he mention that it can convey?
12. What definition do most etymologists refer to?

13. Summarize in your own words a definition of “religion” after reading what the author has written.
14. From your definition can you say there are Christians today who “do” religion?
15. What is the evidence of someone “doing” religion?
16. From reading John 8:32, what do you think it is that Jesus made us free *from* or free *to*?
17. Is there a unifying truth in John 8:32? Is so, what is it?
18. Since the scribes and Pharisees were “experts” in the Scriptures what were they looking for according to John 8:31,32?
19. Did they find what they were searching for? Why or why not?
20. When you think of truth, what immediately comes to mind?
21. If truth is Christ and in Him, then trying to find truth apart from Him would be to practice what? See 1Cor. 2:9-16.
22. What does Col. 3:4 mean to you?

BIBLICAL USAGE OF THE WORD “RELIGION”

23. What does the author bring out about the word “religion” as it is used in Acts 17:22? Did this surprise you?
24. What about Acts 25:19?
25. What two groups did the Apostle Paul confront in his epistle to the Colossians?
26. What kind of “indicators” of religious practices do you get from Col. 2:20-23?

CHRISTIANITY AND “WORLD RELIGION”

27. The author mentions four criteria that are completely inadequate to consider the radical uniqueness of Christianity, what are they?

28. Why would comparing Christianity with other religions be as different as night and day or death and life?
29. What makes Christianity so unique?
30. What are the three things the author mentions that are not Christianity?
31. What does he say genuine Christianity is?
32. What do you think some of Satan's strategies are to keep the world thinking that Christianity is like any other religion?

SCRIPTURE INTERPRETATION AND "RELIGION"

33. What was the New Covenant designed to supplant and supercede?
See page nine.
34. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
35. Why do you think the New Covenant is called "new"?
36. From your answer to question thirty-five, what would that mean to you?
37. Why does the author call the Pharisees and scribes of Judaism, religionists?
38. What were they "religionists" about?
39. Even though they were schooled in Judaism, what was it they failed to understand?
40. The Apostle Paul and the author of Hebrews, James and John in Revelation, were constantly confronting religion in all its forms. They constantly were explaining the difference. List some of the key points the author mentions from their writings?
41. Is there one reoccurring theme or truth? If so what is it?
42. What was religion attempting to overcome and secularize?

43. Do you see in Paul's epistles that in whatever he was confronting, that he always worked his way back to Christ, to the person and eminence of the Lord Jesus Christ? See Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:20; and Phil. 3:7-11.
44. Why do you think that Paul always went back to a Person (the Lord Jesus Christ), rather than to some teaching or doctrine detached from the Lord Jesus?
45. The author states, "Throughout the entirety of the New Testament there is a continuous difference between Christianity and religion.. Why has this not been more apparent to Christians in order that they might be more discerning and cease to equate the two"? Do you agree that there is a vast difference? If so, why do you think it hasn't been more apparent?

EVANGELISM AND "RELIGION"

46. What is the reason that the author gives for the gospel being slowly received?
47. Could this have bled over into the Church today? Is so, describe some of your ideas.
48. What was the contrast that Jesus and the early church proclaimed?.
49. Have you experienced being in a church where the focus of it's teaching was more on "moralistic rules" and a "belief system" and guilt producing sermons, rather than on who we are in Christ Jesus and that dynamic grace of God expressed in the living Lord Jesus by His Spirit? If so what was it like?
50. So far in this study, what in your own words, is the difference between Christianity and religion?
51. What did Paul think of religion? See Phil. 3:2-14.
52. Understanding the difference between Christianity and religion, how will this affect your daily life and your daily thinking?

THE ABUSE OF HUMANITY IN "RELIGION"

53. How is it that humanity is being abused?

54. From this section of our study, the author talks about our God-given desires that are falsely fulfilled by religion. From the many examples given, are there any you can relate to? Tell why or why not.
55. What is it these religious counterfeits enable and encourage mankind to seek?

THE SATANIC SOURCE OF "RELIGION"

56. What do you think the author means when he calls religion the devil's playground?
57. How do you think Satan uses the Bible to lead people into darkness?
58. To identify religion with the identification of Satan will seem blasphemous to those who have not done what?
59. What does the statement by Norman Olson on page thirteen say Satan is the author of?
60. Do you believe that "doing good" is highly valued in our western world? If so, why do you think that it is?
61. If you were to pick a word that was synonymous with "doing good", what word would you pick?
62. When Christians are so preoccupied with "doing good" in whatever form that takes, what do you think is the "bottom line" deception?

THE SOCIOLOGICAL ATTAINMENT OF "RELIGION"

63. How does the Scripture describe the characteristics of the natural man? See 1Cor.2:14 and Rom.8:7.
64. What does the author conclude about religion being the most subtle and insidious feature of the diabolically inspired world of natural man?
65. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

66. If true freedom is only found in a Person (Christ Jesus), then what is happening to people who are practicing “religion”? Can they really be free?

THE WORLD’S VIEW OF “RELIGION”

67. Why do you think a religious person may believe he is a Christian?
68. Is it possible for a Christian to be religious?
69. Explain why or why not.
70. What would be some indications of a Christian “doing” religious things? What kind of things may they be doing?
71. What can happen when a person takes religion to an extreme? See pages fourteen and fifteen.

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72. What does the author say that religion and Christianity emphasizes? Why can’t they emphasize the same thing?
73. The author mentions that religion has to do with form, formalism, rituals, regulations, legalism laws and laboring. Do you think that some of these may have crept in the Church today and is being taught as Christianity? If so, describe how?
74. What do you think Jesus meant when He said for the cross “it is finished”? What was finished? How much was finished? See Jn.19:30.
75. What does the author say about Christianity not being a religion, but rather a relationship?
76. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
77. What main thought can you take with you from the closing paragraph?
78. After this study can you affirm, “Christianity IS Christ”?