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Obey us or we'll cut you off from God

(How to tell the difference between religion and Jesus)

(SERIES: 7 LIES OF ORGANIZED RELIGION: 01 of 07)

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Lie #1:

"If you live a moral life, deny yourself pleasure, follow the prescribed rituals and give us enough money, you'll have a decent shot at being accepted by God."

3 Realities About Life In The Brave New World

We are still **asking the big "Why" question.**

We are still **trying to avoid God answers.**

We are still **hopelessly religious.**

"Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'Men of Athens! **I see that in every way you are very religious.** For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.'" (Acts 17:21-23 NIV)

Religion vs. Jesus

Religion says **be good**; Jesus said **be honest.**

"To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get." But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." I **tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and **HE WHO HUMBLER HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.**" (Luke 18:9-14 NIV)

Religion says **change**; Jesus said **be changed.**

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)

Religion says **perform**; Jesus said **bear fruit.**

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'" (John 15:4-5 NIV)

Religion says **obey me**; Jesus said **follow me.**

"And he said to them all, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.'" (Luke 9:23 KJV)

Religion says **divide up**; Jesus said **unite.**

"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one." (John 17:11 NIV)

Religion says **obey**; Jesus said **repent.**

Religion says **be right**; Jesus said **be real.**

Religion says **caught ya**; Jesus said **go and sin no more.**

"When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, 'Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?' She said, 'No man, Lord.' And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**" (John 8:10-11 KJV)

Religion says **try**; Jesus said **trust.**

"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" (Rom 1:17)

"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished." (Rom 3:21-25)

Religion says **do**; Jesus said **done.**

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:12-13 NIV)