

True Religion

What is religion? Although there are many different opinions among scholars on this question, it can be said that religion is our reunion with God.

As I have observed, religion has come to be divided into two categories.

One is false religion and the other is true religion.

Depending on which one of these two people chose, God has either blessed or punished people. So I want to distinguish between true religion and false religion.

First, false religion is a religion that is recognized by people, not God. In other words, it refers to a faith devoted only to religious traditions and sacrifices and worship.

The first example is found in Isaiah. 1:21 says: "See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; impartial used to dwell in her-- but now murderers!"

In Isaiah's time, religious traditions were well maintained, and numerous sacrifices were performed. It was overflowing with fat cows and oil. And full of great instruments and colourful music.

However, God did not approve of their religious practices. Rather, God said "faithful city has become a harlot." because they have forsaken justice and righteousness. A religion that forsakes justice and righteousness is false.

The second example can be seen in the attitude of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests who opposed Jesus. They are people who have tried to obey the law with all their lives.

They are people who worship strictly according to the law. However, Jesus said they were false religious people because they had forsaken righteousness, mercy, and faith. Their formalistic religious practices made people enslaved to the law.

Then what is true religion?

It is a religion that is pure and faultless before God, not human.

The first characteristic is to acknowledge that God is true:

James 1:17 says: "Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of lights." We are living in the era of capitalism.

Money become their master, and money become their god. People believe that if they have money, they can do things that God cannot do. We, too, often have these thoughts without realizing it.

But true religion is believing and acknowledging that all good things come from God. And it has hope in God.

The second characteristic of true religion is the practice of the Word.

Those who acknowledges that God is truth, believe that all good things come from God, and accept His Word as truth, they cannot but put into practice what they receive.

Regardless of whether it is easy or difficult to keep the Word, true religious people believe and follow the Word. In doing so, sometimes difficulties come, and sometimes we face death, but we hold on to the word. That is the life of true religious people.

The third characteristic of true religion is that the content of practice is love not law even if the law is one of the most important parts.

God is love. The goal of the law is to love God and to love your neighbour. James 1:27 says, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." Beth lost John, life long partner. We need to be with her. We need to comfort her, support her with coffee. Today's text says: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." Practicing love, justice, and righteousness is what God wants us to do.

Therefore, true religion is not to please God by giving an offering or service once or twice a week, but to please God through one's life.

True religion believes that love is the only way to see the invisible God.

A true Christian is a person who believes in God's salvation in such a life and lives that way.

I bless you walk with God in this life of faith.