

Lesson: 7

Religion Versus Christianity

Does Jesus Christ endorse the evil done in the name of religion?

If a doctor misdiagnoses you or treats you terribly, it can shake your trust. But it wouldn't be wise to reject medicine altogether because of one bad experience. The failure lies with the practitioner, not the practice itself.



In much the same way, many people reject Christianity because of the terrible things done in the name of religion. Yet we often overlook an important point: Jesus Christ Himself was not impressed with religion either. In fact, it was religious people who conspired to have Him crucified.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God – God revealed in human form (John 10:30). If that's true, then His life shows us exactly what God is like. And what we see in Christ stands in sharp contrast to many of the actions carried out in religion's name – violence, oppression, and abuse.

When Jesus walked the earth, He spoke strongly against hypocritical religious leaders. He drove out those exploiting others in the temple. He stood with courage and compassion between a woman and those ready to stone her. Again and again, He opposed the misuse of religion and defended the vulnerable.

Sadly, religion has often given Christianity a reputation it doesn't deserve. But to judge Christianity solely on the failures of religious people is to judge it unfairly. Those actions don't reflect Christ – they contradict Him.

Religion may wrong you, condemn you, malign you, or even go so far as to crucify you – but God's desire is very different. He doesn't burden people with empty rituals or leave them weighed down by guilt. Instead, He offers a relationship – one marked by forgiveness, grace, and restoration.

Christianity is not about trying harder to be good or following a set of rules. It is about being restored to a right relationship with our Heavenly Father through the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. This is a gift – freely given, not earned. The question is whether we will accept it.

As John 3:16 says: **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

