

# RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP OR BOTH?

Often when Christians witness they will say, “You need a relationship, not religion.” They are right, but only partially. People need both. We need the right kind of religion to have the right kind of relationship.

## Religious legalism

**Ac 26:5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.**

The world has many religion, Christian and Judaism being among them.

## Religious terrorism

**Ga 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it.**

Some religionists think they are just to persecute people of other religions.

## Religious traditionalism

**Ga 1:14 And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.**

Sometimes religious traditions contradict the Word of God.

## Vain religion

**Jas 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.**

Hypocrisy undermines the name of Christianity. Gossips give the word religion a bad reputation. They don’t even know their religion is vain.

## Pure religion

**Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.**

If a person’s religion does not teach them to help, and teach them to be holy, what profit does that religion have?

## Religious relationship

**2Co 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

Right religion begins with reconciliation with God. Reconciliation does not nullify religion but re-directs it the way God wants. Relationships are not for religion but religion is for relationships. Ours is not a rule religion but a relationship religion.

God wants people to have a right relationship with Him. The religion the Bible describes teaches us how to have a right relationship with God, others, and nature. This relationship cannot begin until a person accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior.

**Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled**

**22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight:**

<p>verse</p> <p>22</p> <p>But</p> <p>now</p> <p>you</p> <p>He</p>	<p>has</p> <p>reconciled.</p> <p>offering</p> <p>Himself</p> <p>through</p> <p>Christ's</p>	<p>body</p> <p>and death.</p> <p>answering,</p> <p>them</p> <p>Christ</p>	<p>offered</p> <p>Himself</p> <p>before (God).</p> <p>You're</p> <p>holy,</p>	<p>un-blameable.</p> <p>As (Christ)</p> <p>you</p> <p>stand</p> <p>before</p>	<p>God,</p> <p>not</p> <p>one</p> <p>charge</p> <p>(against) you.</p>
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