

Is religion a good thing?

Alan Naas

Musterion Truth 3/23/2025

In a conversation with someone recently I mentioned something from the Bible. That person responded, "I'm not a religious person". My reply was, "That's great, neither am I."

How many religions are there in the world today?

The internet says that there are about 4,000.

85 % of the world identifies with a religious group

5 most prominent religions are Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism

Islam follows the Prophet Muhammad

Judaism follows their Patriarch Abraham

Hinduism follows various systems of philosophy and rituals of the Indus Valley civilization.

Buddhism follows the teachings of Buddha

Christianity is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ and His 12 Apostles

Agnosticism follows the doctrine that humans cannot know beyond just the mere existence of things.

Atheists do not believe in a God or any superior power..

Humanism focuses on humans and their values, capacities and worth.

Religions are good in that they provide societies with a code of conduct, ethics, social structure, and moral virtues.

What is the reaction to someone who proclaims, "I found religion!"? Isn't it usually a positive reaction?

Many people have the opinion or belief that "religion" is a good thing.

Compared to other religions of the world, the religion of Christianity is only a step in the right direction to the truth. But Christianity made a wrong turn after the end of The Acts and continued on a road that was closed. They either didn't see or just ignored the detour sign presented in the Scriptures. Just like all other religions in the world, they are either blind to the truth or choose to be disobedient to the word of God.

The English word "religion" is derived from the Latin **religo**.

Re means "again" and **ligo** means "to bind" (as a ligament binds a muscle to the bone)

The word "religion" means to "bind again".

Religion in its original form seems to have signified an oath or a vow to a god or the gods.

The Greek is θρησκεία thrēskeía, thrace-ki'-ah; G2356; ceremonial observance:—religion, worshipping; from a derivative of [G2357](#) ceremonious in worship, pious, religious

Here is my observayion. We have an English translation of God's Word that is interpreted by religious people.

The KJV translators equated religion with worship, perhaps because of their own doctrinal misunderstanding of the Bible.

Religion is distinct from theology, or virtue, or morality.

The English word "religion" is found 5 times in the KJV.

[James 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.*

How does this compare to our definition of religion?

If "pure religion" equates to "**pure worship**", then in this verse "pure and undefiled worship before God and the Father is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted before the world.

What about all the ritual and ceremony and the altar and the temple?

The English word "religious" is **found twice** in the KJV.

[James 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.*

Here religion is a controlled tongue that speaks the truth. Is that all?

I believe that neither Jesus Christ nor the Apostle Paul would have ever started a religion called Christianity.

Jesus constantly upbraided the religious leaders during His earthly ministry. Their religion was in vain. They didn't speak the truth. Paul was constantly at odds with the religious leaders everywhere he went. Their religion was in vain. They didn't speak the truth. Told Peter to his face in Antioch that He was to be blamed. They walked not upright according to the truth of the gospel. (Gal 2:14)

In a Biblical or spiritual sense, if the truth shall make you free, then what would bind us again?

John 8:32

³¹ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³² And ye shall know the truth, **and the truth shall make you free.**

What does that mean exactly; the truth shall make you free?

³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man (lie): how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

³⁵ And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

³⁷ I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. (They were not really believers)

³⁸ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. (The father of lies)

The Jews were bound to the Law of the old covenant. Jesus Christ fulfilled the law of the old covenant and thereby set all the Jews free from the law by simple faith in Him.

John 8:36

³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Only the Son of God, Christ Jesus, can make you free through the truth of His word.

John 8:42-45

⁴² Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

⁴³ Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

⁴⁴ Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

⁴⁵ And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

If the truth makes us free, then untruth, or lies, binds us.

If a religion binds us, what are we bound to?

A religion binds us again to the lies of the Devil, the father of lies.

Ro 1:25

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

All religions originate from the Nimrod and the tower of Babel.

And this can be traced all the way back to Cain and Abel before the flood. Cain refused to worship God in the proper way as Abel did in that he shed the blood of a sacrificial lamb.

Nimrod rebelled against God and built the first brick and mortar tower (church) to worship heavenly bodies (the Zodiac). Nimrod started his own religion.

Can you see that religion is defined by worship.

All religions are bound to the lies of Satan concerning not only **who** to worship, but also **how** to worship.

How much of the OT is about God's people who would worship anything but one true God. How many times did they make a golden calf to worship. How many times did they worship man-made idols and constructed a church, I mean booth, on every corner. They set up high places in every city and set up images and groves and made their children pass through fire. They followed the statutes of the heathen and served Baal and Ashtoreth.

In the OT the religions are called **inventions**.

Ps 99:7-9

⁷ He spake unto them in the cloudy pillar: they kept his testimonies, and the ordinance that he gave them. (the first Commandment forbids religion)

*⁸ Thou answered them, O Lord our God: thou was a God that forgave them, though thou took vengeance of their **inventions**.*

⁹ Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.

Ps 106:28-29

²⁸ They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.

*²⁹ Thus they provoked him to anger with their **inventions**: and the plague brake in upon them.*

Ps 106:39

³⁵ But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.

³⁶ And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.

³⁷ Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,

³⁸ And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

³⁹ Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own **inventions**.

⁴⁰ Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.

Ecc 7:29

²⁹ Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

The only place in the New Testament where it tells a believer today **who** to worship and **how** to worship is in John Chapter 4.

John 4:21

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Does He mean “not in a place” shall ye worship?

John 4:23-24

*²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers **shall** worship **the Father in spirit and truth**: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

*²⁴ God is Spirit: and they that worship him **must** worship him **in spirit and truth**.*

Notice the words “shall” and “must”. Correct religion or worship requires truth.

Truth is equivalent to Divine revelation.

There is nothing said here about a religion, or a church, or a tradition, or a temple, or a priest, or a sacrifice, or an altar.

Samuel said to King Saul of Israel,

1 Sam 15:22

*“Hath the Lord **as great** delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as **in obeying the voice of the Lord?** Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**”*

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

To obey the truth of God’s word far exceeds any sacrificial religion based on man’s ideas..

Blindness to the truth results in doctrines built on lies.

Job 34:32 Elihu

That which I see not teach thou me

Tradition

It is my observation that religion becomes a tradition and tradition becomes a religion.

Matt 15:3

Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matt 15:6

Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

John 9:39

⁹ And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

What happens when believers in Christ are saved but do not come unto the knowledge of the truth?

1. They formulate doctrines based on lies
2. The worship not in the spirit and the truth
3. Their house is built on sand

Some say that religion is bondage to a creed.

The creed of the religion of Christianity is known as the Nicene Creed or the Apostles Creed.

The Shahada is the Muslim creed.

Buddhists have the Shin Buddha Creed

The Jewish creed is the Shmah, or Shema Yisrael, which is a statement of faith in monotheism. It's recited twice a day as a prayer.

Hinduism does not have a set creed, but believes that good behavior has a good outcome.

Galatians 2:4

*And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into **bondage**: (to the laws of Moses)*

Israel (the Jews) were bound to the Old Covenant and the laws of Moses. Paul understood that in Christ he was free from the Old Covenant and the laws of Moses.

Galatians 4:3

*Even so we, when we were children, were in **bondage** under the elements of the world:*

Gal 4:9

⁹ But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Galatians 5:1

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of **bondage**.*

“To bind” is the opposite to “being loose” or “being free”.

That is why the term “religious freedom” seems to me to be an oxymoron.

Freedom **of** religion I can’t understand.

Freedom to be bound again ?

Now, I can understand **freedom from religion**.

Is there a religion where one can be in bondage to the truth?

The Body of Christ

Can it be said the Body of Christ is in bondage to the truth, and the truth makes us free?

The Body of Christ is not a religion. It is not a church. It is not Christianity. It is not a sect.

As a member of the Body of Christ I am free from the religion that once bound me and kept me in the darkness of religion. I HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT FROM THE RELIGION OF CHRISTIANITY.

Eph 4:17

*¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the **understanding darkened**, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

Col 1:12-13

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the ~~saints~~ most holiest of all in the light:

*¹³ Who hath delivered us from the **power of darkness**, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Eph 1:7-9

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

“mystery of His will” = secret of His desire

1 Timothy 2:3-4

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

*⁴ Who will have (*desires*) all men **to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.***

It does not say “desires all men to be saved and go to church or join a religion”.

It does not say go to church to get saved. A religion or a church does not save anyone.

I believe people are now saved through the Gospel of John in this present age and they come unto the knowledge of the truth (of the Body of Christ) through Paul's Prison Epistles.

I just can't find any Biblical justification or purpose for a religion unless it is to bind us again to the searching of dispensational truth in obedience to the word of God rightly divided.

Just because there is a God, The God, there does not have to be a religion. The God is the only God who does not require a religion. He desires freedom in Christ through obedience to His truth.