



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

The Failure of Religion | June 4, 2023

Summary

Religion fails to find the real Jesus; in order to truly follow Jesus, we don't need religion; we need regeneration.

Scripture

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." -Matthew 5:17-22 (NIV)

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? -Romans 2:1-3 (NIV)

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

-Romans 2:12-16 (NIV)

Let's Start

Have you had much exposure to world religions? If so, what has been your experience?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. How do you define religion?
2. Pastor Kyle said, "All religion declares there is a standard to which we need to live... all religious approaches say, 'Here is the moral standard, now you need to keep your life to this standard.'" What is the struggle with this?
3. Since every religious approach to life is inherently judgmental, it is, therefore, inherently hypocritical. How do hypocritical Christians affect those around them? Have you recognized times when you have been hypocritical?
4. Kyle shared two major reasons fail us in finding the real Jesus:
 - Religion is judgmental and hypocritical.
 - Religion can't fix what is wrong.How do you see this in the world religions?
5. In Romans, Paul says we need a circumcision of the heart. We need God to cut off our sinful heart, replace it with Christ's heart, and be regenerated, which means remade, or restarted, made new. Practically, what does this mean for us?
6. Instead of following a religious approach to God, we need to allow Jesus to do a transforming work in our lives. Pastor Kyle gave us three ways to apply this in our lives:
 - Repent
 - Reflect
 - ReplaceHow can you make these a regular part of your life?
7. Do you personally think of Christianity as a religion or a relationship?

